

ANDRONICVS,

OR,

The Vnfortunate  
*POLITIAN.*

Shewing, { Sin; slowly punished.  
              { Right; surely rescued.

ECCLES. 8. II.

*Because sentence against an ill work is not  
executed speedily, therefore the heart  
of the Sons of men is fully set in them to  
doe evil.*

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The Third Edition.

9

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By THO. FULLER. B. D.

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LONDON,

Printed by G. D. for John Williams  
at the Crown in St. Pauls Church-  
yard. 1649.

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Thomas Fuller, English theologian, ardent royalist, b. 1608 ; d. 1661.



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x



## To the Reader.

\*Hest.  
2.6.

**W**EE read of King \* A-  
HASHUEROSH,  
that having his head  
troubled with much bu-  
sinesse, and finding him selfe so in-  
dispoled, that he could not sleep,  
he caused the Records to be cal-  
led for, and read unto him; ho-  
ping thereby to deceive the tedi-  
ousnesse of the time, (an honest  
fraud) and that the pleasant passa-  
ges in the *Chronicles* would ei-  
ther invite slumber unto him, or  
enable him to endure waking with  
lesse molestration.

We live in a troublesome and  
tumultuous age; and he needs

*To the Reader.*

x  
to have a very soft bed, who can sleep soundly now a dayes, amidst so much loud noise, and many impetuous clamours. Wherefore it seemeth to me, both a safe and cheap Receipt, to procure Quiet and Repose to the minde which complaines for want of rest, to prescribe unto it the reading of History.

/ \* Luke  
19. 4. Great is the pleasure and profit thereof. \* *Zaccheus*, we know, was low and little in stature, but when he had borrowed some hight from the Fig-Tree, into which he climbed, the Dwarf was made a Gyant on a suddain; last minute beneath the Armes, but now grown above the heads of other men. Thus our experimentall knowledge is in it selfe, both short and narrow, as which cannot exceed *the spanne of our owne life*. But when wee are mounted on the Advantage of History,

*To the Reader.*

History, we can, not onely reach the yeere of Christs incarnation, but, even touch the top of the worlds beginning, and at one view over see all remarkable accidents of former ages.

Wherefore, untill such time, as I shall by Gods providence, and the Authority of my Superiours, be restored to the open Exercise of my profession, on termes consisting with my Conscience, (which welcome Minute, I do heartily wish, and humbly wait for, and will greedily listen to the least whisper sounding thereunto) it is my intent (God willing) to spend the remnant of my dayes in reading and writing such Stories as my weak judgement shall commend unto me for most beneficiall.

Our English Writers tell us of *David* King of the *Scots*, that whilst he was Prisoner in a Caye

*To the Reader.*

in *Nottingham* Castle, he, with his Nails shall I say carved, (or) scratched out the whole History of our Saviours Passion in the Wall. And although the Figures be rough and rude, yet in one respect they are to be compared unto, yea, preferred before the choyssest Pieces, and most exact Platformes of all Engravers being done at such disadvantages; cut out of a maine Rock, without any light to direct him, or Instruments to helpe him, besides his bare hands.

The Application of the Story serves me for manifold uses. First, here I learn, if that Princes, then meaner Persons, are bound to finde themselves some honest employment. Secondly, that in a sad and solitary condition, a Calling is a comfortable Companion. Thirdly, where men want Necessaries fit Tools and Materials, the



*To the Reader.*

the worke that they doe, (if it be  
a y degree passable,) deserves, if  
not to be praised, to be pardoned:  
Which encourageth me to expect  
of the charitable Reader, favour  
for the faults in this Tract com-  
mitted, when he considers the  
Author in effect banished, and  
Booklesse, and wanting severall  
accommodations requisite to the  
compleating an History.

Noah, to make an *Essay*, \* whe \* Gen.  
ther the *waters were abated from* 9. 7.  
*the face of the Earth*, before he  
would adventure to expose the  
whole Fraught of his Arke to  
danger, dispatch'd a Dove to  
make discovery, and report unto  
him the condition of the World,  
intending to order himself accor-  
dingly. A deep Deluge hath late-  
ly over-flowed the whole King-  
dome, to the drowning of many,  
and dangering of all. I send forth  
this small Treatise, to try whe-

*To the Reader.*

ther the swelling surges, and  
boyling billowes in mens breasts  
(flowing from the distance in  
their judgements, and difference in  
their affection) begin now to as-  
swage, and whether there be a  
dry place for this my innocent  
Dove, safely to settle her selfe.  
If she finde any tollerab'e enter-  
tainment, or indifferent Appro-  
bation abroad, it will give mee  
encouragement to adventure a  
Volume of a more useful Sub-  
ject, and greater concernment in  
the view of the world,

*Thine in all Christian  
offices.*

THO. FULLER.

The



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ANDR



# ANDRONICVS

OR

## The Vnfortunate

POLITITIAN.

*The first Booke.*

I.



Lexius Com-  
nenus, only Son  
of Manuel Com-  
nenus, succeed-  
ed his Father in  
the Empire of

*An. Dom.  
1179.*

*Constantenople.* A child he was in  
Age and Judgement, of wit, too  
short to measure an honourable  
sport, but lost himselfe in low de-  
lights. Hee hated a booke, more  
then a monster did a looking glas,  
and when his Tutor endeavored  
to play him into Scollership,  
by presenting pleasant Au-  
thors unto him, hee returned,

B

that

that learning was beneath the Greatnesse of a prince, who, if wanting it, might borrow it from his subjects, being better stor'd; for (saith hee) *If they will not lend me their braines, I'll take away their heads*. Yea he allowed no other librarie, then a full stor'd Cellar, resembling the Buts to Folioes, Barrels to Quartoes, smaller Runlets, to lesse Volumes, and studied away his time, with base Company, in such debauchednesse.

2. Leave wee *Alexius* drowning his Care, or rather carelesnesse in wine, to behold *Zene* his mother the Regent Empresse, Surfeiting also in pleasure with her husband *Prato-Sebastus*, who had married her, since the decease of *Manuel* her late husband. This *Prato-Sebastus* a better Stallion then warre-horse, was a perfect Epicure, so that *Apitius*, in comparison of him, was

was a churle to starve himselfe,) better at his palat, then his tongue, yet better at his tongue, then his armes, being a notorious Coward. Hee with the Emperresse, conspired to the dissolute education of young *Alexius*, keeping him in constant ignorance of himselfe, their strength consisting in his weaknesse, who, had hee been bred to understand his own power, might probably have curb'd their exorbitances.

3. The body of the Grecian State, at this time, must needs bee strangely distempered, under such heads. Preferment was only scattered amongst Parasites, for them to scramble for it, The Court had as many Factions, as Lords, save that all their divisions united themselves in a generall vitiousnesse; and that *Theodorus* the Patriarch, was scoffed at by all as an Antick for using Goodnesse, when it was out of fashion

and was adjudged impudent, for presuming to bee pious alone by himselfe.

4. As for the City of Constantinople, the chief seat of the Grecian Empire; shee had enjoyed happinesse so long, that now shee pleaded *Prescription* for prosperity. Because living in Peace *Time out of mind*, she conceived it, rather a wrong, to have constant Quiet denied, than a favour, from Heaven to have it continued unto her. Indeed, She was growne sick, of a surfet of health, and afterwards was brokē, with having too much riches. For instead of honest industry, and painful thrift, which first caused the greatnesse of this City: now flowing with wealth, there was nothing therein, but the swelling of Pride, the boiling of lust, the fretting of Envie, and the squeezing of Oppression. So that should their dead Auncestours arise, they would be

*J. Mass*

puz-

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puzzl'd to see Constantinople for it selfe, except they were directed ther ento, by the Ruines of Saint *Sophies* Temple. True it was some yeares since, upon a great famine, some hopes were given of a generall amendment. During which time, Riot began to grow thrifty, pride to go plain, Gluttons to fast, and wantons were sterv'd into Temperance. But forced Reformation will last no longer, then the violent cause there of doth continue. For soon after when plenty was again restored, they relapsed to their former badnesse, yea afterwards became fouler for the Purge, and more wanton for the Rod, when it was Removed,

5. Now there was an Antifa&ion in the Grecian Empire, maintained by some Lords of ancient Extraction, who were highly offended at the great power which *Proto-Schastus*, and *L. Xene* the Em-

presse usurped to themselves; and meeting privatly together, *Andronicus Lapardus* as prolocutor for the rest, vented his discontentment, complaining, It was more then high time, that they now awake out of the lethargy of security, into which, by fooles lullabies, they had cousened themselves. That they in the empire, which have most at the Stake, are made only lookers on; sometimes admitted to the Counsell, out of Complement, and for Countenance barely to concurr; but for the maine kept in Ignorance of most materiall passages. That their names are all branded for death, and that no love to their persons, but feare what might follow, had hitherto secured their lives. In a word, that they must speedily resolve on some projects for their protection, or else they should approve themselves heirs to *Epimethens*, who is

not

22



not found to have left any Land unto his sonnes, but only to have bequeathed an uselesse sorrow unto them, for their *portion*.

6. Hereupon they entred into a strict Combination with themselves secretly, vowing that they would improve their utmost might to bring in *Andronicus Comnenus*, a Prince of the bloud, one of great parts and abilities, ( but lately banished out of the Empire ) to counterpoise the power of *Proto-Sebastus*, and to free young *Alexius* from the wardship of such as abused him. We will present the Reader with a list of their Titles and offices, who were engaged in this designe, intreating him not to bee offended with us, because of the hardnesse and length of their Names; but rather with their God-fathers who Christened them. We have an English Proverbe that *bones bring meat to town*,

and those who are desirous to feast themselves on the pleasant and profitable passages of History, must be content some time to stoope their stomachs to feede on hard words, which bring matter along with them.

7. First, *Maria Prophirogenita Cesarissa* daughter to *Manuel* the late Emperour, by a former wife, halfe sister to *Alexius* the young Emperour.

2. *Cesar* her husband, an Italian Lord, who was so overtopt with the high birth, and spirit of his wife, that in this Historie we find him not grown much above the bare mention of his Name.

3. *Conto-Stephanus*, the Great Duke, Admirall of the Gallies.

4. *Camaterus Basilus* President of the City.

5. *Hagiachristopherites Stephanus*,

*mus*, Captaine of the Guard.

6. *Dissypatus Georgius* Lecturer  
in the great Church, ( an  
higher office, then the mo-  
derne acceptation of the  
word doth imply.)

7. *Tripsycus Constantinus* one  
of the most noble extracti-  
ons.

8. *Macroducus Constantinus*, no  
whit inferiour to him in pe-  
degree, or power.

9. *Andronicus Lapardas*, for-  
merly mentioned, together  
with the afore said.

10. *Theodorus*, the Patriark, last  
named, because least inte-  
rested. For in matters of pi-  
ety, hee was governed by his  
conscience, but in matters  
of policy, by good Compa-  
ny, being therein himselve  
utterly unskilled: and stran-  
gers in unknowne wayes  
commonly follow the most  
beaten Tract of others be-  
fore

fore them. All these joyn'd  
in a league to bring *Andro-  
nicus* home to *Constantinople*,  
who, what he was, and how  
qualified, wee will not fore-  
stall the Reader, conceiving  
it, though somthing paine-  
full, yet more healthfull  
for him to gaine his Cha-  
racter by degrees in the Se-  
quell of his Actions, where-  
in hee will sufficiently disco-  
ver himselfe, without our de-  
scription of him.

8. Now *Maria Cessarissa* was  
employed unto *Andronicus* (ha-  
ving ability in her selfe, and ad-  
vantage by her Sex for the cun-  
ning carriage of the matter) to  
acquaint him with their designs  
She comming to *Oeneum*, where  
he liv'd in banishment, informed  
him of the generall discontent in  
the Grecian Empire: And how  
those which basely served *Zene*,  
did onely command in the State.

That,

Tht besides those great persons, (whose names shee presented in writing) many others (as yet scrupulous Newters) would have their doubts fully satisfied, and declare ~~on~~ his side when they saw him appear with a powerfull Army. That it would be a meritorious worke to enfranchise his Kinsman *Alexius* from their slavery, where under he, and the *Grecian* Empire did groane.

9. Welcom was this invitation to *Andronicus*, to be requested to doe, what of himselfe hee desired. How willingly doth the fire fly upwards, especially when employed to fill up a vacuity; because then doing 3 good Offices, with one motion; Namely, expressing its Dutifullnesse to the Dictates of Dame Nature; and contributing in case of Necessitie, to the Preservation of the Universe; and pleasing its owne

pecu-

peculiar Tendency, which delights in ascending: Such now the Condition of *Andronicus*, who in this undertaking, would show courteous in granting the Request of his friends, appeare pious in promoting the generall good, and withall satisfie the Appetite of his owne Ambition and Revenge. Wherefore with treasure, whereof he had plenty, he provided men and armes, and prepared with all speed for the Expedition.

10. But he could not be more busie about his Warr, then *Xene* was imployed about her wantonnes, counting in life all spilt, that was not sport, who to revenge herself on envious death meant in mirth to make herselfe Reparation, for the shortnesse of her life. That time, which flyeth of it selfe, she sought to drive away with unlawfull Recreations. And though Musicke did jarre, and mirth

mirth was prophaneſſe, at this preſent time, wherein all did feeke what was bad, and feare what was worſe, yet ſhe by wanton Songs (Paunders to Luſt) and other provocatives, did awaken the ſleepie ſparks of her Corruption, into a flame of open wickedneſſe.

II. But it was a great and ſudden abatement to her jollyty to heare that *Andronicus*, with a puiſſant Armie, was approaching the City. *Alexius Protoſebaſtus*, her minion, did woe all people to make reſiſtance. But hee found abundance of Neuters, (of that luke-warmer temper) which Heaven and Hell doth hate,) who would not out of their houſes, but ſtay at home \* and ſide with neither party, theſe did maintaine that the publike Good was no-thing but the reſult of many mens particular good, and therefore held, that in ſaving their

own

own they advanced the generall. Indeed they hop'd, though the great vessell of the State was wrackt, in a private fly-boat of Neutrality to waft their owne Adventure safe to the Shore. But who ever saw dauncers on ropes, so equally to poise themselves, but at last they fell downe and brake their Necks? And wee will take the Boldnesse to point at these hereafter, and to shew what was their successe.

12. The best thing which befriended *Proto-Sebastus* (next to his owne Money) was the obliging disposition of *Zene*. Shee had as many *Nets* as *gestures* to catch affections in, and with her Smiles, did not onely presse, but pay all Carpet Knights, and amorous Personsto bee of her partie. The City of *Constantinople* was thrice walled, with wood, stone, and bones, plenty of Shipping, artificiall Fortifications, and multitudes



tudes of men: the worst was, their Arsenall, was a goodly Stable of gallant wooden Horses, but they wanted Riders to manage them, The *Grecians* (at this time) being very simple Seamen, though nature may seepe both to woe and teach them to be skilfull Mariners, by affording them plenty of safe Harbours. However the *Grecians* conceiving Navigation beneath their honour (which indeed was above their *Industry*,) resigned the benefit of Trading in their owne Seas to the *Italians* of *Pisa*, *Genoa*, *Florence*, and *Venice*, *Proto-sebastus* hired *Mercenary* Mariners of these, and with them man'd his Ships, stopping the passages of *Propontis*, by which *Andronicus* coming from *Paphlagonia*, out of the lesser *Asia*, was to passe.

13. But now an Admirall was to bee provided for his Navie: *Conto-Stephanus* the great Duke, for-

formerly mentioned, challenged the place as proper to himselfe, scorning to bee made a Stale to were the Stile in Peace, and not to execute the Office in warr, when occasion was offered to shew his valour, and serve his Countrie. What should *Proto-Sebastus* doe? it is equally dangerous to offend, or imploy him. Yet he resolves on the latter, not willing to teach him to bee dishonest, by suspecting him, and conceiving it to bee an engagement, on a Noble Nature to bee trusty, because hee was trusted. But hee no sooner received the Charge, but betrayed the Gallies to *Andronicus*, whereby in an instant hee was made Master of all those Seas. The Newes whereof being brought to the City, what riding, what running, what packing, what posting! happy hee that could trip up his Neighbours heeles, to get first into

Into the favour of *Andronicus*. Many that stak't their wives, and children at home in the city, had laid good *Betts* abroad on the opposite party.

14. *Andronicus* being easily wasted over, comes to the Gates of *Constantinople*. Here to oppose him, there was rather a skirmish then a fight, or rather a flourish then a skirmish, the land forces consisting of two Sorts. First old Souldiers, who formerly having beene notorious Plunderers, had their Armes so pressed downe, with the weight of the peoples just Curses, that they could nor lift up their Swords to any purpose, but having formerly preyed on their Freinds, were made a prey to their Foes; Secondly, Citizens, used onely to traverse their Shops, and unquainted with military performances. The city

C

once

once entred, was instantly conquered, (whose strength was much overfam'd) such populous places, like unweildy bodies, sink with their own weight.

15. *Proto-Sebastus* was taken Prisoner, and was kept some dayes and nights waking, being *pinch'd*, when once offering to shut his eyes. A torment which wee meete not with to bee used to so high a person, though (they say) of late in Fashion, for the discovery of Witches.

But to put him out of his paine, *Andronicus* is conceived by some, mercifull unto him, in causing his eyes to bee bored out, seeing it was lesse torture not to see, then not to sleepe, So much for this great Coward, though this his *Character*, cannot bee guessed from his Demeanour herein, seeing a better Souldier might have been worsted in this

Expe-

Expedition against Forces of open Foes, and fraud of seeming freinds, it being impossible to make them fight, who are resolv'd to flye.

16. The Army thus entring the City, some outrages, they must of Course commit, but those, neither for Number or Nature, such as might have been expected: For when a place is taken by assault, the most strict *Commanders* are not able to keepe the mouthes of their Souldiers Swords fasting, but may bee commended for moderate, if they feed not to a Surfet. Besides, such was the infinite wealth of *Constantinople*, her treasures would tempt the fingers of Saints, much more of Souldiers; the *Paphlagonians*, (whereof the Army consisted,) vowed, that seeing their Swords had done so good service, they

would make *hills* of Gold, for  
their *Blades* of Steele,

17. There was then inhabi-  
ting in the City of *Constantino-  
ple*, multitudes of *Frankes* (un-  
derstand *French*, *Germanes*, and  
principally *Italians*,) so that well  
might this City bee called *new  
Rome*, from the abundance of  
*Latins* that lived therein, These  
first by Manufactures, and then  
by Merchandize, got great  
wealth, (their diligence being  
more, and Luxury lesse then the  
*Greeks*,) insomuch that they in-  
grossed all Trading to them-  
selves. This attracted the Envie  
of the Natives, that Stangers  
should suck the Marrow of the  
State, alledging, that in processe  
of time, the *Ivie* would grow to  
be an *Oake*, and those prove abso-  
lute in their owne power, which,  
at first, were dependent for their  
Protection, *Andronicus* with  
some

Something more then a base  
Connivance, though lesse then a  
full Command, freely configned  
these *Frankes* over to the Rapine  
of his Army.

18. Such of them as related,  
to former Friendship or Alliance  
to the *Grecians*, fled to them for  
shelter, who, instead of preserv-  
ing, persecuted them, their  
Company being conceived In-  
fectious, least it should bring the  
Plague of the Souldiers fury  
along with it. And who findes a  
faithfull freind in Misery? All  
their goods were spoil'd, and  
most of their lives spil'd, save  
such as formerly had escaped by  
flight to their ships. Thus *An-  
dronicus* found a cheape way,  
both to pay his Souldiers, and  
please the people, who counted  
him an excellent *Phisitian* of the  
State, and this a great cure done  
by him, in purging the super-  
fluous,

Andronicus, yea noxious Aliens out of  
the City. Indeed carefull he was  
to preserve the Citty it selfe from  
spoyling, as having then a squint  
eye at the Empire; and knowing  
*Constantinople*, to bee the *Seate*  
thereof, hee would not deface  
that faire *Chaire*, into which, in  
due time hee hop'd himselfe to  
sit downe.

The





## The second Book.

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I. **A** *Ndronicus* being thus *An.Dom.*  
peaceably possesse of 1180.  
*Constantinople*, first,  
made his humble ad-  
dresse to the young

Emperour *Alexius*, and ceremo-  
niously kissed his feet. The Spe-  
ctators variously commented on  
his prodigious humility therein;  
some conceiving hee meant to  
build high, because he began so  
low; others thinking that their  
Toes had need beware the cramp  
whose feet he kissed.

2. The next Stage, whereon  
his *Hypocrisie* acted, was the great  
Church it selfe; where, meeting  
*Theodorus* the Patriarch at the  
doore, hee encountred him with  
ranscendent Courtship, pro-  
C 4                    testing

testing, that in him, hee beheld the pattern of *Saint Chrysostome*, his famous Predecessour, it being questionable, whether that worthy Father, did more truly survive, in the learned Books, he left to posterity, or in the looks and life of *Theodorinus*. And whilst the Patriark was meditating a modest Reply, *Andronicus* did powre Complements, so full and fast upon him, that stifled therewith, he could breath no answer in returne, but only fell into a swoond of amazement.

3. Hence, he advanced into the Quire, unto the monument of *Mannell* his Kinsman, and late Emperour. At sight whereof, the teares trickled downe his reverent Checkes, as if they had run a race, which of them should be the foremost: some interpreted this, the love which *Andro-*

*nicus*

*nice* bare to the memory of the dead Emperour, and others feared, that as the moist dropping of stones is the fore runner of foule weather, so this relenting of his hard heart, presaged some stoime to follow after, in the State. Then coming to *Manuels* Tombe, ordering his voyce so low, as seeming hee might not bee, and yet so loud, as certaine hee was heard, what hee spake hee expressed himselfe to this effect.

4. *Deare Manuel, my loyalty stiles thee Sovereign, but my blood calls thee Cosin. I will not say it was thy fault, but my Fate, not to have my love to thee understood, according to the integrity of my intentions. My Innocence, by thee, was banished into a farre Countrey. The Burthen did not grieve mee, but the hand that laid it on; not so much to bee in Exile,*

as an Exile made by thee. However, all my revenge unto thee, shall bee in advancing the honour and safety of thy sonne Alexius, to free whose Innocencie, from the abuse of his freind pretended-enemies, I have embarked my selfe, in a dangerous and desperate designe: Tea my manifold infirmities ( of which I am most Conscious ) grieve me not so much, in my owne behalfe, as because thereby I am rendred disable, from being serviceable to your son, in so high a degree as I desire.

5. Then sinking his voyce, past possibility of being overheard, he continued. Base bloody hound, which chafest mee from place to place. I here arrest thy drowsie Asbes, it being now past thy power to breake this marble Chest. I scorne to ungrave thy dust, ( wishing that all my Enemies were as Sumptuously entombed, ) but thy  
Son,

*The Vnfortunate Polititian.*

*An. Dom.*  
1180.

*Sonne, Wife, Daughter, Favourites, Freinds, Name, Memory, I will utterly destroy, The Poets Phansie begat three Furies in Hell, and I will bee the fourth on Earth.*

6. Some will demand, how we came to the knowledge of this Speech, being so secretly delivered? It is answered it is impossible, some invisible Eare might lye in ambush within the Eare-reach of his words. Besides, let me not be challenged for a libell, who can produce the party from whom I received it; and amongst others, discharge my selfe on one principall \* Author of Excellent credit. Though I beleeve that this Speech was never taken from the Originall of *Andronicus* his mouth, but was translated from the black Coppie of his wicked actions, which afterward he committed.

\* *Nicetas*  
*Coni-*  
*tes invita*  
*Alexii*  
*numero,*  
16.

7. His

His devotions ended, hee retired to his owne house, and there lived very privately, as renouncing all worldly Pompe and Pleasure, whilst his Engineeres, under-hand, were very active to procure the Empire for him, which was thus contrived: A petition was drawne, in the name of all the people, requesting *Andronicus*, that hee would bee pleased, for the good of the State, to bee chosen joynt Emperour with *Alexius*. This was subscribed by the principall men in every place, and then Herds of silly Soules did the like. They never consulted with the Contents of the paper, whether it was Bond, Bill, Libell, or Petition. But thought it a sinne, not to score their marks, where they were told their betters had gone before them. At first they wanted names for their  
Parch-

Parchment, but afterward, parchment for their names. Here it would bee tedious to recount, what sleights and forgeries were used herein. If any delayed to subscribe, they were presently urged with great mens Presidents, that it was Superstition, to bee more holy then the Bishops: Rigour to be more just then the Judges, Malepartnesse, to pretend to more wisdom then so many States-men, who had already signed it. And thus, many fearefull Soules were compell'd to consent, by the Tyranny of others Examples. Indeed some few there were, which durst be honest, whose Soules did stand on a Basis of their own judgements, without leaning, with implicate faith, on others. These disavowed this State-Bigamie, protesting against the Co-Empireship of *Andronicus*,  
and

And boldly affirming, that Crownes take a Master if they accept a Mate. But then all their Names, were returned unto *Andronicus*, who registred them in his black Kallender, who, for the present, did remember, and for the future would requite them.

8. The principall Agent, that openly promoted this Businesse, was *Basilus*, a Bishop, one that protested *Heaven*, and practised *Earth*, much meddling in Temporall matters, being both lew'd and lazic in his owne profession, onely herein hee had the character of a good Churchman, that by his preaching and living hee set forth his office accordingly.

9. And now the Scene being covertly laid, in a Solemne Assembly, on a high Festivall, this Bishop, as the mouth of  
the



the rest ( whose names hee held in a Parchment Roll ) represented to *Andronicus* the sincere intentions, and earnest wishes of the State. Most humbly requesting him, that hee would bee pleased so farre to ease the tender yeares of his deare Kinsman, young *Alexius*, as to beare halfe the burthen of the Crowne, and to accept to bee joynt-Emperour with him: Presuming, that such was the Goodnesse and Humility of *Andronicus*, that hee would not disdaine a part, though hee did deserve the Whole. And after a long Oration concluded. Thus anciently the Roman Senate coupled olde delaying Fabius, with over hasty Marcellus, blending Youth with Age, the swift with Slow: Wholsome mixture, when the one brought Eyes, the other Hands; the one was for Advise, the other  
for

for Action. And thus alone it is possible that the distempered State of the Grecian Empire at this present, can bee cured with this Cordiall, and sacred Composition, of the Gravity of your Highnesse, to temper the greene yeares of Alexius.

10. Hereat *Andronicus* discovered a strangenesse in his looks, as if he had needed an Interpreter to understand the Language which was spoken unto him; and after some Pause proceeded. Let mee not bee censured for unmannerly in not returning my thanks, having my soule for the present possessed with an higher employment of Admiration, That so many Aged States-men, as rich in wisdom, as yeares, should bee so much mistaken in mine Abilities, as to conceive mee in any degree fit for the Moity of a Crowne. Goe chuse some Gallant, whose very flesh is Steele,

steele, can march all day, and  
watch all night, whose vast At-  
chievements may adde Honour un-  
to your Empire. Alas! my pale  
Face, leane Cheeks, dimme Eyes,  
faint Heart, weak Legges, speake  
me fit for no Crowne, but a Coffin,  
no Royall Robes, but a winding-  
sheet. Nor am I ashamed to con-  
fesse, that my youth hath been ex-  
ceeding vitious, wherein I spared  
the Devill the paines of courting  
me, by preferring my selfe to his  
service: And now it is my onely  
joy, with grieve to recollect my  
former wickednesse. Of late I have  
found out a small private place,  
(call it as you please, least of  
Cells, or greatest of Graves,)   
wherein I intend wholly to devote  
the remnant of my life to Medi-  
tation of Mortality. For seeing  
naturally our selves are too deep-  
ly rooted in Earthlinesse, it is  
good to loosen them a little before

D

that

that so by Death they may be pluckt  
up with the more easinesse: Not  
that wilfully either out of Lazinesse,  
or Subennesse, I decline to serve my  
Countrey, which claimes a share in  
me. But though I know I am not to  
live for my selfe, I am to dye to  
my selfe, and may now at this age,  
justly challenge to my selfe a Writ  
of Ease from all worldly employ-  
ment.

II. But *Basilus* perceiving  
that he did but complement a  
deniall, pressed him with the  
greater importunity; confessing  
it would torment the modesty  
of his *Highnesse* to be told how  
high the Audit of his vertues did  
amount, knowing that hee desi-  
red rather to deserve then heare  
his own commendations. But  
withall instantly intreated him  
to remember (what he full well  
understood) that the Intreaties  
of a whole State, had the power  
of

of Commands; and that Heaven it selfe was not so impregnable, but that it might bee battered open by the importunitie of poore Petitioners, That from his acceptance of this their humble proffer, they should hereafter date the beginning of their Happinesse. That this day should stand in the Front of their *Almanackes*, and in Scarlet Text, as a Leader, command over the rest, which followed it, as the new *Birth-day* of the Grecian Empire.

12. However at that present nothing more was effected, & because it was late, the Assembly was dismissed, onely some principall persons were appointed with their private perswasions, to mollifie the stiffnesse of *Andronicus*, who prevailed so farre, that meeting next morning in the full contourse of all sorts of

People, *Andronicus*, first loos-  
ned the Vizard of his dissimula-  
tion for a time, letting it fairly  
hang by, at last it fell off of it's  
owne accord, and thankfully  
accepted their Shouts, and  
Exclamations, with **G O D**  
**SAVE ALEXIUS AND**  
**ANDRONICUS JOINT**  
**EMPEROURS OF**  
**G R E E C E.**

13. Then mounted on a high  
Tribunall, he made an eloquent  
Oration, as indeed he was not  
onely sweet, but luscious in his  
Language, and with the  
Circles of fine Parases, could  
charme any Stranger, both into  
love, and admiration of his per-  
son; smiling, with a pleasant  
Countenance, he told them, that  
he conceived his owne Condi-  
tion was represented in the  
Eagle, displayed in the Imperiall  
*Standard*: For as *Naturalists* re-  
port,

52

port, that Sovereigne of Birds, renews his Age; so he seemed to himselfe grown young again: as if the Heavens had bestowne upon him, new Shoulders for new burdens. And seeing it was their pleasure to elect him to the place, he promised to rescue Right out of the pawes of Oppression, to be the onely *Master of Requests*: so that all complaints should have free Access to him; and, if just, redresse from him. But especially he would be carefull of his own conversation, intending (Grace assisting him) to *have a Law in his owne Example*. In a word, his speech was all excellent good in it selfe, save for this onely fault, That not one syllable thereof, was either truly intended, or really performed.

14. The Solemnities of his Coronation were performed in  
D 3 great

great State, with much Pompe and Expence; And wee may observe; that the *Coronations* of usurpers, are generally more gorgious in their Celebrations, than those of lawfull Princes. For usurpers, out of excessive joy of what they have undeterminedly gotten care not what Cost they lavish, Beside, Ceremonies are more substantiall to them, to tell the world what they are, who otherwise would take lesse notice of them, as not intituled by any right to the place they possesse. Whereas Kings, on whose Heads Crownes are dropt from Heaven, by lineall descent, often save superfluous Charges, at their Coronation, as being but a bare Ceremony, deriving or adding no right unto them, but onely clearing and declaring the same to others.

15. The noise of the peoples  
Shouts,



Shouts did allarm young *Alex-  
ius*, which hitherto was fast slee-  
ping in some obscure corner, and  
little dream't, that mean while,  
an Empire was stollen away from  
him. But now coming to *Andro-  
nicus*, he publicly congratula-  
ted his happinesse, and with a smi-  
ling countenance, embraced him,  
as hartily glad, that he had gotten  
so good a companion in so great  
an employment. We read, that  
in the Country of *Lituania*, there  
is a peculiar Custome that mar-  
ried men have *Adjutores Tori*,  
*Helpers of the Marriage Bed*,  
which, by their consent, lye with  
their wives; and these husbands  
are so farre from conceiving ei-  
ther Hatred or Jealousie against  
them, that they esteem them  
their principall friends. Surely  
the Beds in that Country are  
bigger then in other places:  
seeing amongst all other Nati-

ons, a wife is a Vessell, where-  
in the Cape-Merchant will  
not admit any Adventurers to  
share with him. It seemes *A-*  
*lexius* was one of this *Lituanian*  
Temper, that could accept a  
Partner in his Empire, tickled  
with joy at the Shewes and So-  
lemnities of his Coronation,  
(and well might he laugh till  
his heart did ake) though some  
did verily think, that amongst  
all the Pageants there-presented,  
he himself was the strangest, and  
most ridiculous Spectacle. As  
for *Xene* the Empresse, she ap-  
peared not at all in publique, be-  
ing pensive at home, having al-  
most wept out her own eyes, be-  
cause *Proto-Sebastus* had his bored  
out.

16. Next very day in all Pat-  
tents and publique Receits, their  
Names were transposed. First,  
*Andronicus*, and then *Alexius*,  
this

this Reason being rendred, that it was unfitting, that a Youth should be preferred before so Grave, and Reverend an old Man. Or rather, because as in Numeration, the Figure is to be put before the Cypher. Here some of the friends of *Alexius* propounded, to stop the ambition of *Andronicus*, before the Gangrene thereof spread further; seeing what he received, did not satisfie, but enlarge his proud breast, prompting new thoughts unto him, and widening his heart for higher desires. The motion found many to praise, but not to practise it; none would doe what all desired were done. The younger sort conceived, that this office, because dangerous, was most proper for old men to undertake, who need not to be thrifty of their lives, seeing it was too late  
to

to spare at the Bottome. Old men were of the opinion, it best becomed the boldnesse and activity of youth: and such as were of middle Age, did partake of the Excuses of both. Thus in a project that is apparently desperate, even those who are proudest on their termes of Honour, will bee so humble, as in modesty to let meane men goe before them.

17. As for the Lords of the Combination, (who first procured *Andronicus* his comming to *Constantinople*, ) they found themselves, that they now had farre over-shot the Marke they aimed at. For they intended onely to use him for the present, to humble and abate the pride, and power of *Proto-Sebastus*. Which done, they meant, either wholly to remove, or warily to confine him.

him. But now what they chose for Physick must be given them for daily food: and wofull is the condition of that man, who, in case of necessity, taking hot water to prevent Swoning; must ever after drinke it for Beverage, even to the burning out of his Bowels. For *Andronicus* though he came in as a Tenant at will, would hold his place in Fee to himselfe and his *Heires*. And whereas the aforesaid *Lords* promised themselves, if not Advancement to new Assurance to their old Offices; they found themselves present'd to nothing but neglect and contempt: neither intrusted in the Advice, nor imployed in the Execution of any matters of Moment.

18. Indeed *Andronicus* did loath the sight of those *Lords*, as Debtors doe of Bailiffes, as if

if their very looks did arrest him to pay for those grand Favours which he had formerly received from them, brought by their help from banishment, to power and wealth in the City. Nor would he make use of them, as too sturdy to be pliable to his Projects, standing on their former deserts and present Dignities; but employed those *Officers* of his own planting, which might be easily wreathed to all purposes, being base *up-starts*, depending on his absolute pleasure. And as he used these alone, so these onely in matter of *Execution*: who taking himselfe, (and therein not mistaken) to be sole friend to himselfe, would not impart his Counsels to any one, being wont to say, that Ships sinke as deep with one, as with one hundred *Leakes*.

19. Wee will conclude this  
Book

Booke with an Independent story, hoping the *Reader* will take it as we finde it. There was a noted Beggar in *Constantinople*, well known to the people thereabouts, ( as who had almost worne the Thresholds of Noble mens doores, as bare as his owne cloathes ) an exceeding tall, raw-bon'd body, with a meagre and lanke Belly, so that hee might have passed for Famine it selfe. This man was found begging about the lodgings of *Andronicus*, very late at night, at an unseasonable houre, except one would say, that men of his profession, as they are never out of their way, so they are never out of their time, but may seasonably beg at any houre, when they are hungry. Being apprehended at the Guard, and accused for a *Conjurer*, his ugly face being all the Evidence against him, )

*Andro-*

*Andronicus* delivered him over to the indiscreet discretion of the people, to doe with him as they pleased. These wilde Iusticers, without Legall prooffe, or further proceeding, for *Almes*, bestowed on him a pile of *Wood*, and a great fire, where they burnt him to *Ashes*, whose fact might justly have intituled him to a *whipping-post*, but not to a *Stake*.

20. Say not that this is beneath our History, to insert the death of a *Beggar* in the life of an *Emperour*. For all Innocents are equall in the Court of Heaven; And this *poore man*, who whilst alive, was so loud at great Mens doores, for meat to preserve his life, his blood may be presumed to be as crying and clamorous at the gates of Heaven to revenge his death. For herein *Andronicus* taught the



the People to bee Tyrannicall,  
a needlesse Lesson to such *apt*  
*Schollers*, who afterwards pro-  
ved Proficients herein, to the  
cost of their Teacher, as, God  
willing, shall bee shewed here-  
after.

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**The**

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## The third Book.

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An.Dom.  
1181.

I.



HE newes of *An-*  
*dronicus* his being  
chosen joynt-Em-  
perour, no sooner  
arrived at the eares of *Maria*  
*Casarissa*, but she was drowned  
in a deluge of grieve: being be-  
holden to Nature, that she could  
vent her selfe in Teares; seeing  
that sorrow, which cannot bleed  
in the eyes, doth commonly fe-  
ster in the heart. And when her  
Nurse lovingly chid her for ex-  
cessive sadnesse, she pleaded her  
Sex, which can scarce doe any  
thing without over-doing; so  
that Feminine passions must ei-  
ther

ther not be full, or over-flow.

2. But anger, soon after, having got the conquest of her owne griefe, with furious speech she repaired to the place, where the Lords of the Combination were assembled, & there she abruptly vented her self in these expressions.

3. "Greece is growne barbarous,  
"and quite bereft of its former  
"worth; not so much as the ruines  
"of valor left in you, to reach forth  
"unto posterity, any signes that  
"you were extracted from brave  
"Ancestors. Time was when the  
"Grecian youth adventured for the  
"Golden-fleece, you may now ad-  
"venture for the Asses Skinne, the  
"dull Embleme of your owne con-  
"ditions: The merry Greeke hath  
"now drowned the Proverb of the  
"valiant Greeke. Tame Traitors  
"all! that could behold an Usur-  
"per mate and check your lawfull  
"Emperour, & neither wag hand;

E

or

" or tongue in opposition. Did my  
 " Father Manuel for this, impaire  
 " his own, to raise your estates? He  
 " made you honourable and great:  
 " Oh that he could have made you  
 " gratefull! The best is, your very  
 " sin will be your punishment. And  
 " though your practice hath been  
 " so base, your judgement cannot  
 " be so blinde as to beleewe, that  
 " your Channels of Nobility can  
 " have a stream when the Foun-  
 " tain of Honour is dammed up  
 " by your unworthinesse.

3. The Lords, though by  
 their silence they seemed first to  
 swallow her words, yet the ex-  
 pression of *Tame Traytors* would  
 not goe downe their Throats;  
 the largest soules being narrow-  
 est in point of credit, and soo-  
 nest choakt with a disgrace. *Ma-*  
*mulus* therefore in the behalfe of  
 the rest, *Madam* said he) suffi-  
 ceth it now for us, barely to deny  
 your

your speech. Had you been a Man, we should have proceeded to defie the Speaker. What your passion now condemnes in us for base; your judgement will not onely acquit, for right, and approve, for safe, but even commend for honourable, and advantageous for our Master Alexius. Our Lives and Lands are at the sole dispose, and the cruell mercy of our enemies. We are instantly undone if we whisper the least and lowest syllable of loyalty, and utterly disabled from any future service to Alexius. We conceive it therefore better for a time, to bow to our Foes, rather then to be broken by them: To spare in words, and spend what we please in thoughts. We want not a will, but wait a time to expresse our reality to the Emperour, with most safety to our selves, and effect for him, in season least subject to suspition.

5, Pacified with these words,  
she was contented to attend the  
performance of the promise, in  
time convenient; though never  
living so long as to behold it, be-  
ing prevented by violent Death.  
For now *Andronicus* began free-  
ly to rage in innocent blood,  
cutting off such Nobles as hee  
thought would oppose him.  
Something like truth was al-  
ledged against them, to stop the  
clamours of the multitude. And  
power never wants pretences,  
& those legall, to compasse what  
it doth desire. They were indi-  
cted of Conspiracy against *An-  
dronicus*; And Knights of the  
Post, (of the Devils own dub-  
bing) did depose it against them.  
Yea, silence was not enough to  
preserve mens innocence: some  
being accused that their No-  
ses did wrinkle, or their Eyes  
winke, or their Fore-heads  
frown,

frowne, or their Fingers snap  
Treason against *Andronicus*.

6. In this his Epidimicall cruelty it was much, that a famous Jester of the Court escaped his fury: of this fellow, his body downwards was a foole, his head a Knave, who did carefully note, and cunningly vent, by the privileges of his Coat, many State-passages, uttering them in a wary twilight, betwixt sport and earnest. But belike, *Andronicus* would not breake himselfe by stooping to so low Revenge, and made conscience in breaking the ancient Charter of Jesters, though wronging the Liberty of others of greater Concernment.

7. Of such as were brought to publike Execution, it was strange to behold, the difference of their demeanour. Some, who were able to be miserable, with an undaunted minde, did become

come their afflictions, and by their patience made their miseries to smile, not bowing their Soules beneath themselves, only appealing for Justice in another world. Others did foolishly rage, and ramp, mustring whole Legions of Curses, as if therewith to make the Axe turne Edge. And then seeing no Remedy but Death, their Soules did not bow by degrees, but fell flat in an instant, of Lyons, turning Calves, halfe dead with feare, received the fatall stroake of the Executioner. So many were confusedly hudled to death, it is hard to rank them in order, only we will insift on some principall persons.

8. First *Maria Cesarissa*, and her Husband (whether it was Conscience or Manners, not to part man and wife;) and because *Andronicus* durst not, for feare of the People, bring them to  
publick



publick death, their *Physitian* was brib'd with gold, which he conceived cordiall for himselfe; And thereupon hee did quickly purge out both their soules by Poyson, (an unsuspected way,) which robs men of their lives, and yet never bids them to stand.

9. Next followed *Xene*, the Mother Emperesse, being accused of high Treason for attempting to betray the Citie of *Belgrade*, to *Bela K. of Hungarie*. A pack't Councell condemned her to death, which though otherwise vitious, was generally bemoaned, as most innocent in this particular. But *Andronicus* the Emperour, cunningly derived the whole hatred hereof on young *Alexius* (whose power he never used or owned, but only to make him the Cloak-father for odious Acts) urging him to signe the Warrant for her execution. In  
the

the stout refusall whereof *Alexius* shewed more Constantly then was expected to come from him clearly answering all Arguments herein shewing himselfe a childe in *Affection*, and more then a child in *Judgement*. Whereupon some ground their presumptions, that his soule deserved better breeding, and that he was not to be censured for weaknesse of Capacity; but rather his freinds to bee condemned, for want of care, and himselfe to bee bemoaned, for lacke of Education. Hee flatly told *Andronicus*, that *Nero* was recorded Monster to all Ages, for killing his Mother: And that hee would never consent to her death, that gave him life.

10. But he proceeded to aggravate the crime of *Xene*, *Belgrade* being such a peice of strength,

strength, that it was a whole Province in effect. And though but a Towne in *Bulke*, was a Kingdome in *Benefit*. All Greece awfully attending the fortune thereof. Hee minded *Alexius* that *Fathers of Countreys*, should know no *Mothers*; but that *Soveraignes* affections are onely of kinne to the good and safety of their Subjects. Besides, (sayth hee) you need not scruple so much at her death, who is dead whilst living, and hath been many yeares drowned in *Luxurie*. So that what was cruelty in *Nero*, will be Exemplary Justice in you.

11. *Alexius* rejoyned, that if his Mother *Xene* was so drowned in *Luxurie*, the more need she had to drown her finnes in penitent Teares, except it were conceived charity to kill both her-soule and body. That Princes

ces were not to owne private affections, where they were destructive to the common good, but might and must, where they consisted with the publick safety. Orelse to become a *Prince*, would bee all one, as to leave off to be a *Man*. Grant *Belgrade* a strong place, it was still in their own possession, and her intended Treason succeeded not. And therefore he conceived it a middle and indifferent way, that she should be deprived of liberty for plotting of Treason, and yet be permitted to live, because the plot tooke no effect: A Cloister should be provided, where-to she should be close confined, therein to doe penance for her former enormities. And in this Sentence, he conceived that hee impartially divided himselfe betwixt the affection of a Child, and

and severity of a Judge.

12. But *Andronicus* who was resolved to have no denyall, highly commended him for his filiall care of his Mothers soule: Yet, said he, for the benefit thereof, fifty Fryers at my owne proper charges, shall bee appointed, which after her death, Night and day, shall daily Pay their prayers in her behalfe, whose sufferager are as well knowne above, as her Prayers are strangers there: it being to bee presumed, that whilst shee is living, the Heavens will bee deafe to her, which so long have beene dumb to them. Speake not of her project that it tooke no effect: for had it succeeded, none would have called it Treason, but have beheld it under a more favourable Notion. Hee minded *Alexius*, that hee had sufficient power of himselfe, being joynt-Emperour to put her to death:

but

but that he would in no case deprive him of this peerelesse Opportunity of Eternizing his memory to posterity, and securing the State by his necessary Severity. For all hereafter would be deterred from attempting of Treason, as despairing of pardon, when they beheld the Exemplary justice on his owne Mother.

13. *Alexius* still persisting in his denyall, *Andronicus* at last fell to flat menacing, yet so cunningly carryed it, that his threats did not seeme to proceed from any anger, but from love to the person, and greife for the perverseness of *Alexius*. Hee protested he would no more breake his sleepe, he would steere the State no longer; Let even the Windes and the Waves hereafter bee the Pilots to that crazie vessell. He call'd the Heavens to

wit-

witnesse, before whom he entered a caveat to preserve his own innocence,) how he had tendered happinesse to *Alexius*, but could not force it upon him, who wilfully refused it. In a word, so passionate he was, and so violent was the streame of his importunity, that the young Emperour either out of weaknesse, or wearinesse to swim against it, was at last carried away with the current thereof, and subscribed the Warant.

14. To divert whose minde from musing upon it, a solemne Hunting in the Countrey was contrived, that there hee might take his pleasure. In a Forrest not farre off, a stately Stagge was lodged, ambitious (as they told him) to fall by the hand of an Emperour, or else to bee dubbed an *Hart Imperiall*, if chancing to escape. All things being ready,  
*Alexius*

*Alexius* is carried thither, but withall, those are sent along with him, which hunted this Hunter, markt all his motions, learnt the language of his looks, and hands, with the different Dialects of his severall fingers, so that hee could not speake a word, or make a signe to any of his faithfull Servants, but presently it was observed, and if materiall, reported to *Andronicus*. None of his Friends durst shew any discontent. If any was seen sadly to wagge his head, it was a certaine signe that that Head stood but loose on his Shoulders; and by the next returne, the Newes would bee, that 'twas fallen off: So miserable was the condition of this Prince, and of all his Followers.

But *Andronicus* had a Hinde to hunt at home, and must provide



vide for the Execution of *Xene*.  
And now to enter the tender  
yeares of his sonne *Manuel*, for  
great Actions, he thought first  
to blood him with an *Empresse*,  
in private delivering the War-  
rant unto him. Behold here an  
unexpected accident! This good  
Childe of a bad Father, ( Grace  
can cut off the oldest, and stron-  
gest Entaile of wickednesse ) re-  
fused the Employment, alledg-  
ing, there was no such dearth of  
Hangmen, that a Prince need  
take their Office; and that it  
was against his Conscience, her  
Crime being rather pack't then  
prov'd, seeing shee was never  
brought to answer for her selfe.  
Hereat his Father ( mad with  
rage ) rated and reviled him.  
*Bastard, thou wert never true  
Eagles Bird, whose eyes are dar-  
led at the Sunne of a Womans Beau-  
ty. What? Doth thy Cowardice  
take*

take Sanctuary at Conscience? He never climbs a Thorne, that stands on such poore pretences. What if shee never appeared to answer? Where the fact is selfe doctory, it is needlesse for the offender to speake: Narrow-hearted foole! A Cottage is fitter for thee then an Empire. Have I pawned mine owne Soule, to found thy greatnesse, and am I thus requested? And so abaupty brake off into weeping.

16. Manuel modestly returned: I am sorry Sir, you should pawne your Soule for my sake, but however I am resolved not to lose mine owne. Whosoever climbs a Throne without Conscience, never sits sure upon it. I had rather succeed to your private paternall possession, then to an ill-gotten Empire. Nor am I dazzled at the lustre of her Beauty, but at the clearenesse of her Innocence; All  
meth

men being generally Compurgators for her integrity herein. Employ me, and try my valour in any other service. Command, and I will fetch the Lions onely heire out of his Den, both in sight and spite of Sire and Dame; only herein I desire to be excused, and I hope deserve not to be accounted a Coward for fearing to commit a sinne. How much Andronicus was bemaddened hereat, may easier be conceived then exprest, to receive a finall repulse from his owne Sonne, insomuch as at the last he was fain to make use of Hagio Christophorites Stephanus, Captain of the Guard, (who alone of all the Lords of the Combination, stucke to him, and was respected of him) and hee very fairly took order to dispatch her, stifling her (as some say) betwixt two pillowes.

17. The next Newes which

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took

\*Vide su-  
pra, 2. lib.  
parag. 9.

tooke possession of the Tongues  
& Eares of people, was the cruell  
and barbarous death of young  
*Alexius*: whilst, the vulgar did  
wonder that he dyed so soon, and  
the wife did more admire that he  
lived so long, and the difference  
was not great betwixt him that  
was now but a Ghost, & whilst li-  
ving but a shadow. \**Basilius* went  
too far to fetch a fit parallell out  
of the Roman History, to com-  
pare *Andronicus* & *Alexius* with  
old *Fabius* and sprightfull *Mar-  
cellus*; who might have met in  
the same story farre neerer, (be-  
cause later by 100 yeares) a more  
lively resemblance in the Con-  
sullship of *Julius Caesar* & *Bibulus*,  
whereof the one did all, the other  
drank all.

18. The manner of *Alexius*  
his death was, that he had his  
neck broken with a Bow-string;  
the punishment in that place, (as  
still

still amongst the Turkes) much used; and in this *Tyrants* Reigne, the string did cruelly strangle more at home, then the Bow did valiantly kill abroad. This Bow-string ( to make a short digression ) was an Instrument whereon *Andronicus* used to play, and sportingly to make much Mirth and Musicke thereon to himselfe, calling it his *Medicine for all Malladies*. For whereas (said he) Purges were base, Vomits worse, Cupping painfull, Glisters immodest, Blood-letting cruell, this Bow-string had all the opposite good qualities unto them. And the same did quench the heat of Feavers, draine the moisture of Dropsies, cure Plurisies without piercing a veine, stay the Vertigo, heale the Strangury, by opening the Urine; and onely stopping the breath. This being

one base humour of *Andronicus*, (unworthy Civility and Christianity) to breake jests on men in misery, just as they were to dye. As for the Corps of *Alexius* (on whom he had practised with his foresaid Medicine) they were most unworthily handled, and dead Bodies, though they cannot be hurt, may be wrong'd, especially of such eminent persons

19. Now to refresh the Reader amidst so many murders, and massacres; it will not be amisse, to insert an unexpected Marriage. *Alexius* left *Anna* an Empreſſe Dowager. And some days after her husbands death, he addressed himselfe a Supor unto her, being to encounter with invincible disadvantages. First, he came reaking with the blood of slaine *Alexius*. And what hope could hee have that shee would embrace that Viper, that had

had stung her other-seife to death! Secondly the disproportion of his Age, being past 70. and what motly coloured Marriage would it make to joyne his gray to *greene*! his cold *November* being enough to kill her *flourie May*, Norwithstanding all this, he had formerly been so flesh't with fortune, he conceived he could never be leane afterwards, and knew that in matters of this nature, confidence in attempting, is more than half the way to success.

20. First he possess'd himself of her judgement, and made her beleeve, that all his former undertaking, were in service to her, grieving that *Alexius* did not value the *Pearle* he wore. He protested there was nothing about him old but his haire, which were dyed white not by his Age, but by his Carefulnesse for her preservation. Then, he assaulted

her affection, principally pressing that Argument, which was never propounded to a meere woman, and returned with a denyall, namely, assuring her of power and greatnesse, promising shee should be the Conduit, through which all his favours should pass, and all his people under his command, should be blest or blasted by her influence, neither were gifts wanting, and those of the largest size, bestowed on her Servants, (who promoted his cause) and the dullest bodies worke on the most subtrill Soules, by the mediation of such Spirits.

21. Now, whether it was out of Childishnesse, not being full fourtene, or out of feare, being farre from her freinds, and her Person in his power, or out of pride, loath to abate of her former State, she assented to his desire. But to speake plainly, he shew-



sheweth himselfe to have store of  
leisure, and want of work, who  
is imployed to finde a Root in  
Reason, for all the fruit that  
growes from Fancie: sufficeth it,  
she loved him affirming it, it  
was no wonder, that he should  
take a poore Ladies Affections  
captive, whose valour in the  
Field, had subdued the most man-  
ly of his Enemies.

22. To make this story passe  
for probable, we may fellow it,  
with the like in our English  
Chonicles. RICHARD the  
Third, though not so old, more  
ugly, then ANDRONCUS ob-  
tained the love, and was married  
to the Countesse of Warwicke,  
the Relict of Prince *Edward* (son  
to King *Henry* the sixt) whom  
the same *Richard* had slaine at  
*Teuxbery*, she knowing so much,  
and he not denying it, They were  
name sakes, both *Ann's*, and when

they had cast up their Audit, both, I beleeve, might equally boast of their Bargaines.

23. But *Andronicus* who was never unseasonably Amourous but had his Lust subordinate to his Ambition and cruelty, when they gave him leave and leasure to prosecute his pleasure) was not softened by the Dalliance of marriage, to remit any thing of his former Tyranny. He protested that he counted the day lost, wherein he had not kill'd or tortur'd some eminent Person: or else, some *planet struck* him with his frownes, that he enjoyed not himselfe after. He never put two men together to death after the same way; as not consisting with his state to weare one torture threed bare, but ever appeared in exchange, and variety of new manner of punishments. And if any wonder, that there was not

*The Vnfortunate Polititian,*

An.

2161

a generall insurrection made against this monster of mankind, to rend him from the Earth; know that he had one humour, that did much helpe him, in being sterne and cruell to Noblemen but affable and courteous to poor people, and so still kept in with the vulgar. Besides, many state-ly Structures hee erected, and sweetned his cruelties with some good acts for the Publique. Now that we might not seeme to have weeded the life of *Andronicus*, or to be a kin to those flies, which travelling by many fragrant Flowers, onely make their residence, on some Sore, or Dung-hill, we will recount some of his good deeds, and pittie it was, that they had not proceeded from a better Author.

24. Hee surveyed the Wals of *Constantinople*, and mended them, wheresoever the chinkes thereof  
did

did call for reparation. He plucked  
downe all the buildings without  
( yet so, that the owners sustained  
no losse thereby ) for feare in case  
of an enemies invasion, those  
houses might serue them for lad-  
ders to scale the City with more  
ease. Thus all *Constantinople* was  
brought within the compasse of  
her Walls, ( as she remaines at this  
day ) not like many ill propor-  
tioned Cities in *Europe*, which  
groane under over-great Sub-  
urbs ( so that the Children over-  
top the Mother ) and branch them-  
selves forth into out-Streets, to  
the impairing of the roote, both  
weakening and impoverishing the  
City it selfe. He bestoweth great  
cost in adorning the *Porphyrie*  
*Throne*, which an Usurper did  
provide and beautifie for a law-  
full Prince to sit upon it. Hee  
brought fresh water, ( a Treasure  
in that place ) through a Magni-  
ficent

ficent Aqueduct, into the heart of the City, which after his death was spoyled out of spight (as private revenge in a furious fit, oft impaires the publique good) people disclaiming to drinke of his water, who had made the streets runne with bloud. His benefaction to the Church of fourty Martyrs amounted almost to a new founding thereof, intending his Tomb in that place, though it was arrant presumption in him who had denied the right of Sepulture to others, to promise the Solemnity thereof unto himselfe.

25. But that which gained him the greatest Reputation farre and neare, even amongst those that never saw his face, was, an Edict for the saving of Ship-wrackt goods. There was amongst the Greeks a constant practice, founded in cruelty, and strengthened by custome, that if a vessel was discovered in danger of drowning, those

those on the shore like so many ravenous Vultures, flockt about that Carcasse, to pick out the eyes thereof, the wealth therein. These made all their Hay in soule weather, which caused them not only duely to wair, but heartily to wish for a Tempest: And as the wicked Tenants in the Gospell concluded to *kill the Heire that so the Inheritance might bee their owne*, These remolelesse men, to prevent future Cavils and clamours about the goods, dispatche the Mariners, alwaies by wilfull neglecting their preservation, and too often by downe-right contriving their destruction. More cruel then the very stocks and stumps of Trees, which growing by Rivers sides, commonly hang over the water, as if out of pity, rendering their service to such as are in danger of drowning and stooping downe to reach their hands

to helpe them to the shore. Now, *Andronicus* taking this barbarous custome into consideration, forbad it for the time to come, on most terrible penalties, (and this Lion, if enraged, would by his loudnesse, 'roare hearing into the deafe) and enjoyned all to improve their utmost endeavours, for the preservation of their persons. Hence followed such an alteration, that shipwrackt goods, if floating to land, safely kept themselves, without any to guard them. Men would rather blow their Fingers, then heat their hands with a rotten planke; rather goe naked, then cover themselves with a ragge of shipwrackt Canvas: It was ominous to steale the least inch of a Cable, lest it lengthen it selfe into an Halter to him that tooke it. All things were preserved equally safe, of what value soever, and

un-



untold Pearle might lye one the  
Shore untoucht, like so many  
Oyster-shells. This dispersed the  
fame of his justice and mercy in-  
to forraign parts: And as sounds  
which are carried along by the  
Rivers side, having the advan-  
tage of hollow banks, & the wa-  
ter to convey them, are heard  
sooner and quicker then sounds  
of the same loudnesse, over the  
Land; So the Maritim actions  
of Princes, concerning Trading,  
wherein strangers, as wel as their  
owne Native Subjects, are inter-  
essed, report them to the World  
in a higher Tone, and by a quic-  
ker passage, then any Land-lockt  
Action of theirs, which hath no  
further influence, but only termi-  
nates in their owne Kingdome.  
Yea this one ingratiating Decree  
of *Andronicus*, did set him up  
with so full stock of Reputation,  
that upon the bare credit thereof,  
might



might now runne on skore, the  
committing of many Murthers,  
and never have his Name once  
called to account for any injustice  
therein.

26. And as the Sea-men by  
water, so the Husband-men by  
land) and those wee know have  
strong Lungs, and stout sides,  
cryed up the fame of *Andronicus*,  
because he was a great pre-  
server of Tillage, and Corne  
was never at more reasonable  
rates then in his Reigne. Hee  
cast a strict eye on all Customers  
and Tax-gatherers, and (as e-  
vill Spirits are observed to walk  
much about Silver Mines) so *An-  
dronicus* did incessantly haunt  
all publique receivers of mony,  
and if finding them faulty, Oh  
excellent sport for the people  
to see how those Sponges were  
squeezed. He allowed large and  
liberall maintenance to all in pla-  
ces

ees of Judicature, that want might not tempt them to corruption. Thuseven the worst of Tyrants light some times on good actions, either stumbling on them by chance, or out of love (not of vertue, but) of their own security. They are wicked by the general *Rule* of their lives, and pious by some *Exceptions*, *just*, by fits, that they may be more safely *unjust* when they please. And hereby *Andronicus* advanced himselfe to be tollerable amongst man-kinder.

27. We could willingly afford to dwell longer under the Temperate Climate of his Vertues; but Travellers must on their journey. Comming now to the *Third Zone* of his Fury, which indeed was not habitable: His Foes he executed, because they were his Foes; and his Friends, because they were his Friends.

Friends. For they that let out a Courtesie at Interest to a Tyrant, commonly lose the Principall: Witnesse *Conto-Stephanus*, the great Duke, Admirall of the Galleyes, who by betraying his Trust, brought *Andronicus* to *Constantinople*, and now fairly had his eyes put out. As for *Georgius-Dissipatus*, *Andronicus* intended to roast him, being a corpulent Man, upon a Spit, affirming that such fat Venison wanted no Larding, but would baste it selfe, and meant to serve him up as a dainty dish, in a Charger, or Tray, to his Widow, had not some intervening accident diverted it. He made a bloody Decree, which had a traine of indefinite, and unlimited extent, and would reach as farre as the desire of the measurer: namely, that all such of the Nobility which were now,

G

or

or should hereafter be cast into Prison, should bee executed without any legall Triall, with their Children and Kindred. Prince *Mannel*, (whose worst fault was, that *Andronicus* begat him) in vaine opposed this Decree, alledging this to bee the ready way for his Father to un-Emperour himselfe, by destroying that Relative Title, and leaving himselfe no Subjects.

18. But *Andronicus* had found Scripture whereby to justifie his Act, and brought St. \* *Paul* for his Patron, whose practise and confession hee cited. *For the Good that I would I doe not; but the evill which I would not, that I doe. Now if I doe that I would not, it is no more I that doe it, but sinne that dwelleth in me. God keep us from Apocrypha-Comments on Canonickall Scripture:*  
send

\* Rom. 7  
19, 20.

send us his pure Text, without the glosse of *Andronicus*, who be-like, conceiv'd he would not be a perfect Tyrant, by onely torturing of men, except also hee did rack Gods word, rending Text from Con-text, and both, from their true intent.

29. This Decree startles such Lords of the Combination as were left alive, together with *Mamulus*, principall Secretary to the late Emperour, and *Alexius Ducas*, the most active, but not nearest Prince of the blood. These, meeting together, much bemoaned themselves, till *Mamulus* counting such puling passion beneath Masculine Spirits, thus uttered himselfe.

30. You late adorers of *Andronicus*, who did conceive it would pose the power of Heaven to cure the State, Save onely by his hand, be your own Iudges, whether it be

Not just that they should dye of the  
 Physicke who made a God of the  
 Physitian. Diseases doe but their  
 kind, if they kill, and, an evill ex-  
 pected, is the lesse evill: but no such  
 Torment as to dye of the remedie:  
 Onely one helpe is left us, if secret-  
 ly and speedily pursued. Wee know,  
 Isaaci<sup>us</sup> Angelus by birth and  
 merit is intituled to the Crowne.  
 True, hee lives privately in a Co-  
 vent, but worth cannot bee hid  
 it shines in the darke; and great-  
 nesse doth best become them to  
 weare it, by whom it is found, be-  
 fore it is sought for, as more deser-  
 ved then desired by them: say not  
 that hee is of too milde a dispositi-  
 on; for, his soft temper will make  
 the better Pultis for our sore necks,  
 long gauled with the yoke of Ty-  
 ranny. And seeing wee have thus  
 long been unhappy under the ex-  
 tremities, the childe-hood of A-  
 lexius, and old yeares of Andro-  
 nicus

nicus, let us try our fortunes under the middle age of *Isaacius* And no doubt but we shall light on the blessed meane and happy temper of Moderation.

31. The motion found entertainment beyond beliefe. And yet *Alexius Ducas* offer'd it to their consideration; that so meek a Dove would never make good Eagle: Giving a Character, how a Prince would be accomplished with valour and experience, by insinuation designing himself. It is pleasant to heare a proud man speaking modestly in his owne praise, whil'st the Auditors affect a wilfull deafnesse, and will not heare his whispering, and silent expressions, till at last he is faine to hollow downe-right Selfe flattery into their Eares. Here it fared thus with *Ducas*, who thereby only, exposed himselfe to contempt: and perceiving

no successe, zealously concurr'd  
with the rest for advancing of  
*Isaurius*. All necessary particu-  
lars were politiquely contrived,  
each one had his taske appointed  
him: some, to seize on the ships;  
others, to secure the Pallace, make  
good the great Church: and the  
whole modell was exactly me-  
thodized, considering the vast  
Volume thereof, which consisted  
of many persons of quality there-  
in engaged.

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The

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## The Fourth Book.

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I. **B**UT, great designes, *An.Dom.*  
like wounds, if they 1181.  
take Aire, corrupt.  
This project, against  
*Andronicus*, could not be covert-  
ly carried, because consisting of  
a medly of persons, of different  
tempers, and un-suiting soules  
having private intents, to them-  
selves, not cordiall, uniting their  
affections, but onely Freinds, *for*  
*the time being*, against the com-  
mon Foe: So that, through the  
Riftes, and chinks of their se-  
verall aimes and ends, which  
could not bee joynted close to  
G 4      gether

gether, the vigilancie of *Andronicus* did steale a glimps of their designe, apprehensive enough to light a candell for himselfe. from the spark of the smallest discovery.

2. And now let him alone to prevent their proceedings, by cutting both them and theirs off (that no mindfull heire might succeed to their spite) and that with all possible speed; for he steer'd his actions by the compasse of that character, which one made of him, as followeth,

*I love at leasure, favours to bestow:  
And tickle men by dropping kindnesse slow;  
But my revenge, I in one instant spend,  
That moment which begins it, doth it end.*

*Halfe doing undoe's many, 'tis a sinne  
Not to be soundly sinfull; to begin,  
And tire; I le doe the worke. They strike in vain  
Who strike so, that the striken might complain.*

3. *Mamalus* was the first who was brought to Execution, on  
this

this manner. A mighty fire was made, and to provoke the Tyrannie thereof ( as if that pure Element of it selfe had been too fine and slender, effectually to torment him ) they made the flame more stiffe, and stuffie, by the mixture of pitch and brimstone. Then *Mamalus* was brought forth starke naked, in somuch that all ingenuous beholders, out of a modest Sympathy, conceived, that they saw themselves naked, in seeing him: and therefore, ( as much as lay in their power ) they covered him, by shutting their eyes. When the Souldiers with Pikes, were provided to thrust *Mamalus* into the fire, whil'st many Spectatours durst not expresse their pittie to him, out of pittie to themselves, lest commiserating of him, should be understood complying with him, but  
were

were cautions to confine 'their Compassion, within the Compassse of their brest, that it should not sally forth, into their eyes, and outward gestures.

4. Betwixt this Dilemma of Deaths, the sharpe Pikes of the Souldiers on the one side, and fury of the fire, on the other; he preferred the former, not as most honourable, and best complying with a military Soule; (not being at leasure alasse, in time of torment, to stand on termes of credit,) but as least painfull. But the Souldiers denied him this choice, and forc'd him into the fire; and then hearing his Shreekes, even those who refus'd, out of favour, to give any pittie to his person, could not, out of justice, deny the payment of some compassion. (bound thereunto, by the Specialty of Humanity) unto his miserable condition.

5. Meane

5. Meane time, *Andronicus*, was a spectatour, rickling himself with delight, only offended, that the sport was so short, and *Mamalus* dead too soone. The stench of whose burning flesh (offensive to others) was a perfume to him, who had the *Roman-Nose* of *Caligula*, *Nero*, *Damitian*, and such Monsters of cruelty. And, as he pleased his owne smell, with the Odour of Revenge; his sight, with beholding the execution; his Eare with the Musicke of his enemies dying Groanes: So, there wanted not those that wish't that his other senses, were also imployed, according to his deserts, his Touch and Taste, that they might feelingly partake of the torture of the fire. Thus dyed *Mamalus*, scarce twenty four yeares of Age, before the Bud of his youth had opened into a flower; having in his

his parts, not only promises, but some assurance, that the hopes of his future worth, should be plentifully performed, had not this untimely accident prevented it.

6. *Lapardus* acted next on the Scaffold, though not condemned to death, but to have his eyes bored out: His Extraction was noble, State great, Pride greater; to maintain which, he contrived the Advancing of *Andronicus* to the Throne: the under ground Foundation of whose greatnesse, was closely laid, by *Lapardus* whil'st he left the vilible Structure thereon, to others. Like a mole he conveyed his train, closely spurring on *Basilius* (who posted of himselfe,) to act in odious Projects, whil'st himselfe culk't unseen; hoping, if matters held, to be rewarded by *Andronicus* for his secret service; if they miscaried, to provide for his own safety; seeing

seeing none could challenge him,  
of any appearing open ill Action  
wherein he was engaged.

7. Bnt quickly he fell off of  
his speed in serving *Andronicus*,  
whether, because he conceived  
his deserts found not a propor-  
tionable Reward: or, because he  
bare a love to the person of  
*Alexius*: or, because he was not  
perfectly bad, and fainting in  
the way of wickednesse, could  
not keepe pace therein, with the  
fast and wide strides of *Andro-  
nicus*, or which is most probable,  
he slowly perceived his Errour,  
that Tyrants plucke down those  
staires, whereby they ascend to  
their greatnesse: and then, too  
late, began to unravell, what he  
weaved before. True it was, he  
had assisted *Andronicus*, so long  
that he had offended all the side  
of *Alexius*, and had deserted  
him so soone, that he dis-ingaged  
all the party of *Andronicus* and

so



So was unhappy not to have the cordiall affection of either.

8. On the Scaffold he spake little expecting that the paine would kill him, confessing hee ow'd a Death to Nature, and a violent Death to Justice, and forgave all the world save his owne selfe. Beholding the Sunne, Farewell (said hee) Life of my life, my night must be at my noon, and then laying his hands on his eyes, Must I loose you thus? was it because I shot forth wanton glances? Or, beheld Rivals, with envious lookes? Or, adored the Shine of Gld; that I must thus lose you? Or, was it because I acted in a dark way, to advance the cruelty of a tyrant, that now all my endeavours are seen by the world, and I must bee blinde? However, Divine justice appeares clearest to me, in the losse of my Eyes. Thus was Lapidus tortured:



red: and though some may think that *Andronicus* swerved from his principle, taking away onely light, not life from him, and thereby rather more enraged him *for*, then wholly disabled him *from*, revenge; yet we may bee assured, that Tyrant did never so doe his workes by the halfe, but that he strook out their Teeth, whose Eyes hee bored out, so securing their persons, that he put them past power of doing him mischief.

9. During this raging cruelty of *Andronicus*; wee may commend, in *Theodorus* the Patriark, rather his successe then policie, (his simple goodnesse being incapable of the later) who seasonably withdrew himselfe from *Constantinople*, to a private place hee had provided in the Isle of *Terebynthus*: here he had boile  
him

him an handsome house, equally distant from Envy and Contempt, Bravery and Baseness, so that if Security and Sweetness had a minde to dwell together, they could not have found a fitter place for that purpose. Severall Reasons moved him to his speedy removal, besides the avoiding the fury of *Andronicus*. First, because *Basilus* undermined him at the Court in his Patriarkship, *Theodorus* being absent thence, when present there, bearing onely the Name and Blame, when the other had the power and profit thereof.

10 Secondly, to avoid the sight of people, conceiving every Eye which did behold, did accuse him, as a principall cause of their miseries, for helping *Andronicus* to the Empire. In whom *Theodorus* had beene  
strange-

strangely mistooke, as the best men are soonest deceived with the painted piety, and pensive looks of Hypocrites, counting all Gold that shines, all sooth that is said, betrayd by their own Charity into a good opinion of others. Lastly, it grieved him to see ignorance and impiety so rampant, base hands committing daily rapes on the Virgin *Muses*; so that they might even now ring out the *Bell* for dying *Learning*, and sadly toll the knell for gasping *Religion*. Wherefore as Divines solemnly observe, to goe off of the *Bench* just before the sentence of condemnation is pronounced upon the Malefactor; so this Patriark, perceiving the Citie of *Constantinople*, *Cast*, by her owne guiltinesse, and by the confession of her crying sinnes against her selfe, thought it not fit for him to stay  
H there,

there, till Divine justice should passe a finall fatall doome upon the place, ( which he every minute expected ) but embraced this private opportunity of departure.

II. Soon after his retiring, he ended his life: we need not enquire into his disease, if we consider his Age, accounting now fourscore and foure winters. And well might his yeares bee reckoned by Winters, as wanting both Springs and Summers of Prosperity, living in constant affliction. And yet the last foure yeares made more wounds in his heart, then all the former plow'd wrinkles in his face. He died not guilty of any wealth, who long before had made the poore his heires, and his owne hands his Executors. After hearty prayers that Religion might shine when he was set, falling  
into

into a pious Meditation; hee went out as a lamp for lack of Oyle: no warning groan was sigh'd forth to take his last farewell; but even he smiled himself into a Corps, enough to confute those, that they be-lye Death, who call her *grim*, and *grizely*; which in him seemed lovely and of a good complexion. The few Servants hee left, proportioned the Funerall, rather to their masters estate, then Deserts, supplying in their sorrow, the want of Spices and Balme, which surely must bee so much the more pretious, as the Teares of men are to be preferred before Gums, which are but the weeping of Trees.

12. The Patriarkes place was quickly supplied by *Basilias* the Bishop, so often mentioned, preferred to the place by the Emperour. *A Patron and Chaplaine*

excellently met; for what one made Law by his *List*, the other endeavoured to make Gospell by his *Learning*. Instating of any Controversie, *Basilius* first studied to find out what *Andronicus* intended or desired to doe therein; and then let him alone to draw that Scripture which would not come of it selfe, to prove the lawfulnessse of what the other would practice. Thus, in favour of him, he pronounced the legality of two most incestuous matches; and this Grecian Pope gave him a Dispensation to free him from all Oathes of Allegiance, which hee had formerly sworn to *Mannel*, or *Alexius*: for this was the humour of *Andronicus*, to have Religion along with him, so farre as it lay in his way, courting the company of pious pretence, (if possibly they might be procured) to counte-

countenance his designs : But in case they were so foule, that no glosse of Justice could be put upon them : he disdained that Piety which would not befriend him, and impuently acted his pleasure in open opposition of all Religion.

13. But whilst this *Basilus* was thus hot about his secular affaires ; there wanted not an aged Hermite, who tooke him to taske, and soundly told him his owne, though it made but small impression in him. Meeting him at advantage ; *Hermits*, you know sayth he, hate both *Luxury* and complement. In plaine truth, I must chide you, that seeing earth is but your Inne, and heaven your Home ; you mistake the first, for the latter. Mans soule is so intent on its present object, that it is impossible, it should attend two callings at the same time, but must



needs make default in the pursuance of one of them. Your temporall intermedling draw's the envy of the Laity, for whose love you should rather labour; nor are you stor'd with forraigne observations, really to enable you for such undertakings. Say not that you may meddle with temporall State-affaires, and yet not intangle your selfe with them, seeing the world is such a Witch, it is impossible to doe the one without the other. Observe those Clergy sticklers on the Civill Stage, and you shall seldome finde them Crowned with a quiet death. Remember your Predecessour Chrysostome, who did onely Pray and Preach, and Read, and Write thereby made happy in the despight of his Enemies: For though twice expell'd his Patriarkship, hee was twice restor'd with greater honour; so that it was no want of Policy, which lost, but store of Piety,



which caused him to recover his place againe. Speake I not this out of any repining at the lustre of your preferment, who envy outward Honour no more than the shining of a Glo-worme, but meerly out of love to your person, and desire of your happinesse.

14. But *Basilins*, in some passion returned, I perceive you are lately broken loose out of your Cell, which makes you more fierce and keen like Hawkes when they are first unhooded and newly restored to the light. Know, Sir, one may well attend two Callings if they be subordinate, as the meanes and the end. All my secular Businesse is in order to the good of the Church. The love of the Laity unto us, without some awe mingled with it, can neither be long-Lasting, or much serviceable. My Education hath admitted me into generall Learning, and made me capable of any imployment. I deny not the World to

H 4

be

be a Witch, but I know how to arme  
my soule with holy Spels against all  
her Incha.ments. Whereas you say,  
one cannot meddle with worldly mat-  
ters but m<sup>st</sup> intangle h<sup>m</sup>self there-  
with, it is all one, as if you should af-  
firme, that a temperate man cannot  
eat meate but he m<sup>st</sup> surfet. Prooves  
from the event, argue not the justice  
or injustice of the act. and nothing  
can be inferred from the ill successe of  
our meddling in secular affaires. To  
your instance of Chrylostome, I op-  
pose the example of Augustine Bishop  
of Hippo, who set in full brightnesse,  
and yet kept a Court in his owne house,  
where hee umpir'd and deciaed all  
temporall controversies. You trampell  
on that which you call pride in mee,  
with that which is so in our self. And  
all this proceeds out of spight, because  
you cannot turne your Cowle into a  
Mitre.

15. But Basilius was deafe to  
all these perswasions, and joyning  
with

*The Unfortunate Politician,*

*An. Dom.  
1181.*

with *Hagio Christophorites Stephanus*, (chiefe Engineer for *Andronicus*) advanced all cruell designes. And now *Mamasus* and *Lopardus* being executed, all others were posselt with a Panick feare: and no wonder when the string is broken, if the Beads be scattered. It being feare that the Plot miscarried, they strove to make themselves innocent, by first making others guilty. And yet it was vain to take the pains who should start quickest, when they all met even at the Post: For *Andronicus* took order that they were all alike executed.

16. There were two of his Creatures, *Trypsicus* and *Hagio-Christophorites Stephanus*, who only fell out, who should be most officious to him. Each had the other in jealousy, fearing his Rival would engrosse the Emperour unto him. Especially *Stephanus*,  
was

was fearefull of *Trypsicus*, understanding that *Andronicus* wrote private Letters unto him, stiling him, his *Beloved friend*, with other expressions, which spake more intimacy than *Stephanus* was willing to heare. This *Trypsicus* had beene a dangerous *Promoter* in all company, Representing to *Andronicus* every syllable spoken against him, to the disadvantage of the speaker, and as one saith, ( I conceive rather in the Language of the times, than his own ) *Every man then was to give an account of every idle Word.* It happened therefore that one was procured, who accused *TRYPSICUS* for jeering of *JOHN* the Emperours eldest Son for Deformed, and that he scattered some loose expressions, bewailing the misery of the times. Now, though the great Service which *TRYPSICUS* had done, might deserve to over-weigh so  
light

light an Offence; it cost him his life, Confiscation of his goods, and Ruine of his Posterity.

17. Now hath STEPHANUS roome to Domineere alone in the favour of ANDRONICUS, sending him to seize on ISAACIUS, who for the present was got out of his Covent. It was past the skill of the Spannel to catch him, who dived for the instant, but we shall finde him in due time above water, and that to purpose.

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The

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## The Fift Book.

An.Dom. I.  
1183.



SECURITY is the  
Mother of danger,  
and the Grandmo-  
ther of destruction.

Let ANDRONICUS be a prooffe  
hereof, who now, neareft to his  
ruine, grew moft confident, as  
conceiving he had stop't every  
cranny, wheredanger might creep  
in, and therefore in a bravery, he  
sent a defiance to Fortune her felf,  
which notwithstanding, was  
returned with his owne speedy  
overthrow.

2. Yet could he not juftly  
complain, that he was fuddenly  
fuprised, feeing Nature might  
feeme

seem to have gone out of her way, to give him warning; and *Nemesis* did not hunt him so fast, but that shee allowed him faire Law to provide for himselfe, by severall Prodigies which hapned at that time. But *Andronicus*, not onely against the full intent, but almost visible meaning of the same Accidents, did make a jesting construction of them, and was deate to the loud language of all ominous passages, as not relating unto him. ;

3. Being told of the apparition of a Comet, ( no lieger-starre of Heaven, but an extraordinary Embassadour ) portending his death, as some expounded it; he scoffingly replyed, that he was glad to see the Heavens so merry, to make Bone-fires for his Triumphs: And what was a Comet, but the Kitchin-stuffe of the Aire, which blazing for a while



a while, would goe out in a Sauffe : Adding, That that Starre might presage the fall of some Prince that wore long haire, whereas his was short enough. When another told him of an Earth-quake which had lately happened, *I am glad*, saith he, *that the Mother-Earth, sick of the Chollick, had so good a vent for her winde.* Being informed that the Statue of Saint Paul, (his Tutelary Saint) was seene to weep, he evaded the sad presage thereof, by distinguishing on teares, there being an Homonymie in their language, as bearing not onely different but contrary Senses, proceeding either from Mirth or Mourning; and therefore, that weeping might probably foreshew good successe. In a word, all serious and solemne Omens, he tuned to a jesting meaning, keeping himselfe



selfe constant to his first principle, *That Fortune when fear'd, is a Tyrant; when scorn'd, is a Coward.* But though hee unjustly perverted the sense of these prodigies; the event did truly interpret them in his destruction.

4. For *Isaacius Angelus* persecuted by the Executioner, fled into the great Church, (in those dayes the Sanctuary at large for Innocents) where, making an Oration to the people, he exceeded expectation, and himself, as if hitherto hee had thriftily reserved his worth (a serious, others say, simple man) to spend it more freely when occasion required it. Hee spake not like those mercenary people, which make their Tongue their *Ware*, and Eloquence their *Trade*; but hee uttered himselfe so pathetically, that he did not court Attention,

tention, but command it. Hee made both his innocence, and the cruelty of *Andronicus*, to appeare so plain, that the people not only afforded him protection for the present; but also bestowed on him Sovereignty for the future, and instantly elected and proclaimed him Emperour of Greece.

5. Stand wee here still, and wonder what should be the Reason, that *Andronicus* should suffer this *Isaciuss*, next Prince of the blood, so long safely to survive, who had cut off other Persons of lesse danger, and lower degree. We cannot ascribe it to his incogitancie, as inconsistent with his vast memory, to forget a matter of such importance; lesse can we impute it to his pittie, as if sparing him out of compassion: seeing that a Thred might

that he did not count  
100-

sooner hope to be prolonged under the knife of *Atropos*, then any to finde favour under his impartiall cruelty. Was it not then because he had him in his power? and counting himselfe sure to seize on him at pleasure; reserved him, as *Sweet-Meat*, to close his stomach, when first he had fed on severall Dishes of courser Diet: Or, because he slighted him, as a narrow hearted man, religiously bred in a Covent, unfit for a Campe, the object rather of his contempt, than feare, for that his hands might seeme tied with his Beads, from being dangerously active, in the State. But, let us remove our wondring at this neglect of *Andronicus*, to make roome for our admiration of divine Providence, who confounded this Politician in his owne cunning. Thus the most expert Gamsters  
I may

may sometimes over-see, and, Traitors, though they be carefull to cut downe all Trees, which hinder their ambitious Prospect; will unawares leave one still standing, whereof their own Gallows may be made.

6. Immediately all the Prisons in the City were set open, and those petty sinks of dissolute people empied themselves into a common Sewer, and became into a tumultuous (Torrent. Headlong they haste to the Pallace of *Andronicus*, where not finding him at home, they wreckt their spight upon that beatifull building, and sumptuous furniture therein. Should I insist upon particulars, all sorts of Readers would be sadded therewith. *Ladies* would lament the losse of so many Pearles and precious stones, whose very Cases were Jewels. *Souldiers* be-  
moane

moane the spoyling of so magnificent an Armorie. But *Schollers* would be most passionate, to bewaile the want of that Library so full fraught with rarities, that nothing abated the Pretiousnesse, but the Plenty of them. Many records, (the Staires whereby *Antiquaries* climbe up into the knowledge of former times) were torne in peices, though we need not believe them so old, as that some of them had escaped *Noah's* flood, and were now drowned in a popular Deluge.

7. Nothing was preserved whole and intire. Whether, because they pretended some Religion in Revenge, as not aiming out of Coverousnesse, to enrich themselves, but out of Justice to punish the Tyrant; or because they thought the very Goods of *Andronicus*, were become *evill*, guilty of their owners

ners faults, and therefore were all to be abolished as execrable: yea, as if the very Chappel it self, which he had built, had been un-hallowed, by the Prophane-nesse of the Founder; with the Utensils thereof, it was defaced. A stately Structure it was, ANDRONICUS not being of their opinion, who conceiving an holy horror to live in darke and humble Cels, fancie not Triumphant Churches, for feare that their Hearts bee therelost in their eyes. But he professed his Devotion to rise with the roose of the Church; so that his soule seemed to anticipate heaven, by beholding the Earnest thereof in a beautifull Temple. However, now his Chappell was layd flat to the ground; and, amongst other things therein, of inestimable value, the Letter, which, by tradition, was reported to

132

to be written by Christs owne hands, to *Abgarus* King of *Edeffa*, then was embezeled. So irresist-able is the Tyranny of a Tumult; and therefore, it may be all good mens Prayers, that the People may either never understand their own power, or alwayes use it a-right.

8. *Andronicus*, as we said before had secretly conveyed himselfe away. Who would not have thought, but that this great Fencer should have been provided of variety of Guards, against all the crosse blowes of Fortune; at least, to have had some impregnable place, neare hand, to retire unto? Whereas he had no other Policy to escape, than that poor shift, which the silly simple *Hare* useth against the *Hounds*, by flying before them. Indeed had the Conspiracy against *Andronicus*, been but locall, or partiall, so that

he had any sound part to begin on, hee would probably have made resistance, ( as *Physicians* must have some strength of Nature in their Patient, to practice on, ) but the defection from him was so generall and universall, he found not any effectuall friend left him. Onely hee had scrap't together a masse of Coyne, more trusting in money, than men, hoping, in forraigne parts, to buy some friends therewith, knowing that Gold if weight, is currant in all Countries. Then taking *Anna* his Emperesse, and *Marraptica* his whore, with some few servants, he durst confide in, and the Treasure he had formerly provided, he made speede, in a Pinnace, through the black Sea, to the *Tauro-Scythians*, out of the bounds of his Empire, hoping there to live in quiet. And because we have mentioned

*Anna*



*Anna* the Emperesse, we cannot  
passe her by in silence, For if one  
would draw a map of miserie, to  
paire like years, with like mishap,  
'tis hard to finde a fitter Pattern.

9. Daughter she was to the  
King of *France*, being married a  
childe (having little list to love;  
and lesse to aspire) to the young  
Emperour *Alexius*, whilst both  
their yeares, put together, could  
not spell Thirry. After this, she  
had time too much, to bemoane,  
but none at all, to amend, her con-  
dition, being slighted and neg-  
lected by her husband. Oft-times  
being alone (as sorrow loves no  
witness) having roome, and  
leisure to bewaile her selfe, she  
would relate the Chronicle of  
her unhappinesse to the Wals,  
as hoping to finde pitie, from  
stone, when men prov'd unkind  
unto her. Much did she envy  
the felicity of those Milk-maids,

which each morning passe over the Virgin dew, and Pearled-grasse, sweetly singing by day, and soundly sleeping at night, who had the priviledge freely to bestow their affections. and wed them, which were high in love, though low in condition: whereas Royall Birth had denyed her that happinesse, having neither liberty to chuse, nor leave to refuse; being compell'd to love, and sacrificed to the Politique ends of her potent Parents.

10. But *Anna*, unhappy at her first Voyage, hoped to better her Condition by a second Adventure; yet made more hast than good speed, marrying *Andronicus* some weeks after the death of *Alexius*. Surely there in an *Annus luctus*, *A year of mourning*, which the modesty of widowes may doe well to observe, least neglecting it in their widdowhood,

hood, it be required of them afterwards, with Interest, in the ill successe of their second marriage. For, *Maraptica*, a proud Harlot, but excellent Musician, justled with *Anna* in the Emperours affection: (and halfe an old Husband was too much for a young Lady to spare) and in proceffe of time, prevailed to obtaine violent possession. The Emperesse, knowing her self honest, and amiable, stood on her Deserts; not descending to beg that love, which she conceived due unto her, but daring him to detaine it at his owne perill, seeing hee wronged himselfe in wronging other, forfeiting his Troth, which he had pubhlykely pledged unto her. But, the Curtizan, knowing that that love needs Buttresses in Cunning, which hath no foundation in Conscience; applyed her self in  
all

all particulars to be complizant to the desires of *Andronicus*. This *Maraptica*, though she had faire fine fingers to play on the Lute, had otherwise foule great Clutches, to snatch, graspe, and hold, whatsoever shee could come by. And knowing that shee had but a *short Terme in the Tenement* of her greatnesse, (subject both to the morality and mutability of *Andronicus*) and withall, that she was not bound to reparations, therefore cared not what waste shee made, but, by wrong and rapine scraped together a masse of mony. Meane time, *Anna* was kept poore enough; who, whilst Maid, Widow and Wife, (twice a Bride, before once a Woman) scarce saw a joyfull day; though borne of a King, and wedded to two Emperours.

II, But to returne to *Andronicus*

*nicus*

*nicus*, who pursued after by his guilty conscience, found no rest in himselfe; so that for many nightes, sleep was a stranger unto him. He that had put out other mens eyes, could not close his owne; and when Nature in him starv'd, for want of rest, did at last hungerly snatch at short slumbers. Dreames did more terrifie, than sleep refresh him. His active fancy in the night did descant on what he had done before. Sometimes, the pale Ghost of *Alexius* seemed with glowing Pincers to torment him, otherwise *Maria Cassarissa* sticht hot burning Needles through his side; and, not long after, two streames of reeking bloud seemed to flow out of the eyes of *Lapardas*, wherein *Andronicus* for a while seemed to swimme, till, beginning to sinke, to save himselfe, he caught hold on his  
Pillow,

Pillow, and so did awake.

12. When awaked, his minde was musing upon a Prophecie, which some dayes since was delivered unto him: For he had employed an Agent, unto one *Seth*, an old Conjurer, to know of him what should be the name of his next successour in the Empire. Now, first a great *S.* was presented in a Bason of water; and next that, an *I.* but both so doubtfully delineated, that they were hardly legible: done on purpose for severall Reasons. Because it stood not with the State of the *Prince of Darknesse*, to be over-cleare in his Acts; and those that vent bad Wares love to keep blind Shops: Besides, obscurity added veneration to his Oracle, and active Superstitious Fancies, whet with the difficulty of them, would be sharpe sighted to read more then was

was written, But the maine was to save his owne credit, taking covert of Mysticall Expressions, that in case Satan should faile in his Answers, he might lay the blame on mens understanding him.

13. Put then these two Letters together, *S. I.* and read them backwards *I. S.* by an *Hysteresis*, and take a part of the whole by a *Synecdoche*, all favourable Figures must be used, to piece out the Devils short skill in future Contingents ) and then *Andronicus* was told by the Conjuror, hee had the name of his Successor. Aske me not why *Hels Alphabet* must be read backward, let Satan give an account of his owne Couz'nage, whether out of an apish imitation of the Hebrew, which is read retrograde, or, because that ugly filthy Serpent, crawles *Cancer-like*,  
or

or to make his Answers the more *Enigmaticall*, for the reasons a-fore-said. *Andronicus* by this *I. S.* understood *I Savrus Comne- nus*, who lately, by Usurpation, had set up a Kingdome, in the Isle of *Cyprus*, and therefore alwayes observed him with a jealous eye, and now too late perceives his errour, and findes the Prophecie performed in *Isaaci* *Angelus*.

14. Thus, those that are cor-respondents with the Devill, for such intelligence, have need when they have receiv'd the text of his Answers, to borrow his Comment too, lest otherwise they mistake his meaning. And, men may justly take heed of Cu-riosity, to know things to come; which is one of the kernels of the *forbidden Fruite*, and even in our Age sticks still in the throats of too many, even to the danger of choaking them, if  
it

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it be not warily prevented.

15. Hitherto, what disasters had happened to *Andronicus* might partly be imputed to men, and second causes : Whereas now, divine justice, to have its power praised in its punishments, seemed visibly to put out a hand from heaven, and he wants eyes, that cannot, or shuts them, that will not, behold it. See now the Gally, wherein he sayled, having all the Canvas thereof, employed with a prosperous Winde, when suddenly it was checkt in the full speed, and beaten back with foule weather into a small Harbour, called *Chele*. Soon after the Windes serving againe, he set forth the second time, and had not made many leagues, when *Neptune* with his Trident thrust him back againe; such was the violence of the  
Seas

Seas against him. A third time  
he set forth with a faire Gale,  
when instantly, the wind chan-  
ging forced him to returne.  
Here, what tugging, what  
Towing, what Rowing! no-  
thing was omitted, which Art,  
or Industry, Skill or Will,  
could performe: *Andronicus*,  
dropping a shower of Gold to  
the Saylers, to reward the  
Sweat that fell from them.  
All in vaine; For as, indeed,  
he had offended the *Fire*. with  
the Innocents he burnt there-  
in: angred the *Aire*, with hun-  
dreds of Carkasses, which there-  
in he had caused to be han-  
ged: provoked the *Earth*, by  
burying men alive in her Bo-  
some. So, most of all he had  
enraged the *Water* against him,  
( now mindfull of his Inju-  
ries ) by him made a Charnell-  
house,

house, and generall Grave, into which, the body of the young Emperour ALEXIUS was cast, with thousands of his Subjects. God, herein to prevent all mis-contructions of Casualty (which otherwise men might fasten upon it,) and knowing that men are slow in their *Apprehensions*, and dull in their Memory to learne the Lessons of his Justice, he re-iterated and repeated it three severall times, that the most blockish Scholler, might learne it perfectly by heart: *This is the worke of the Lord, and it may justly seeme, marvellous in our eyes.* Thus ANDRONICUS was, the third time, sent backe to the place from whence hee came, and so to the place of Execution. For hee was no sooner come to the shore, but

K

Ser-

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1183.

*Andronicus, or*

Servants, employed by ISAACIUS, ( who had way-layd all the Ports on the Blacke Sea ) stood ready to Arrest him.

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The

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## The Sixt Book.

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1. **A**NDRONICUS  
having now left  
him neither Ar-  
my to fight, or  
legges to flye; (being in the pos-  
session of his Enemies) betook  
himselfe to his Tongue, be-  
moaning his Case, and with  
Teares begging their favour. But  
those Eyes, which, weeping in  
jest, had mock'd others so of-  
ten, could not now be trusted,  
that they were in earnest. The  
storme at Land was more impla-  
cable then the tempest at Sea.  
Two heavy Iron Chaines were  
K 2 put

put about his neck, ( in Mettle  
and weight, different from them  
he wore before ) and loaden with  
Fetters and Insolencies from  
the Souldiers, ( who, in such  
Ware, seldome give scant mea-  
sure ) he was brought into the  
presence of *Isaacius*. Here the  
most mercifull and moderate  
contented themselves with  
Tongue-revenge, calling him  
Dogge of uncleannesse, Goat  
of Lust, Tygre of Cruelty, Re-  
ligions Ape, and Envies Basi-  
lisk. But, others pull'd him by  
the Beard, twitch't the haire left  
by Age on his head, and procee-  
ding from depriving him of Or-  
namentall Excrements, dash't  
out his teeth, put out one of his  
eyes, cut of his right hand, and  
thus maimed, without Sur-  
geon to dresse him, man to serve  
him, or meat to feed him, he  
was sent to the publike Prison a-  
mongst

mongst Theeves and Robbers.

2. All these were but the beginning of evill unto him. Some dayes after, with a shaved head crowned with Garlick, he was set on a scab'd Cammell, with his face backwards, holding the Taile thereof for a Bridle, and was led cleane through the City. All the Cruelties which he in two yeares and upwarks, had committed upon severall persons, were now abbreviated and Epitomised on him, in as large a Character, as the shortnesse of the time would give leave, and the subject it self wascapable of: they burnt him with Torches and Fire-brands, tortur'd him with Pincers, threw abundance of dirt upon him; and withall, such filthinesse, that the Reader would stop his Nose, if I should tell him the composition thereof; it is enough to say, that the

worst thing that comes from Man, was the best in the mixture thereof

3. Such as consult with their Credit will be cautious how they report *improbable Truths*, fearing they will not be received for Truths, but rejected for improbable, Especially in this Age, wherein men resume their Liberty, conceiving it against the *Priviledge* of their judgments, to have their Beliefe, (which should be a Voluntary) prest by the authority of others, to give credit to what beares not Proportion with Likely-hood. Could an old man (such as *Andronicus* was) past the age of man, three-score and ten, who now only lived *by the courtesie of Death* to spare him, endure such paine, three miles, through so populous a City? The Poets onely feigned *Atlas* to be weary of carrying



rying of Heaven; but, must not our *Andronicus* be either stifled for want of breath, or back-broken with store of weight, under so much earth throwne upon him? And was it possible, that He? who before these times, had one foot in the grave, should have the other not follow after, when driven with such cruelty?

4. To render this likely, we may consider, first, that it was the intent of the People, not to kill, but to torment him. Secondly, when one Dish is to goe clean through a Table of Guests, men are mannerly; all, take some, though none, enough. Besides, he was one of a strong Constitution, whose Brawny flesh Nature had knit together with Horny Nerves. And yet, had he been a weak man, a Candle with glimmering light will burne long in a Socker, being thrifty of it selfe.

\* Rev.  
9 v. 6.

Life was sweet to *Andronicus*, under all those noysome smells; and he would not part with it, whilst hee could keep it. But what was the maine, it was possible God might support his life, either out of justice, or mercy. (And, we read in \* Scripture, of Men, *that they shall desire to dye, and Death shall flee from them.*) I say not of Justice, visibly to acquit himself, in the eyes of the world, by making such a Monster, the open Mark for Mans Revenge; or out of mercy, giving him a long and large time of Repentance, if he had the happinesse to make use thereof.

5. Behold here a strang Conflict, betwixt the Cruelty of the People on the one side, and the patience of *Andronicus* on the other; and yet an indifferent Umpire would adjudge the Victory to

to the latter: No Raging, no Raving no Muttering no Repining; but swallowed all in silence Only he cryed out, *Lord have mercy upon me: And, Why break yee a bruised Reed!* and sensible of his own guilt i<sup>n</sup> esse, he seemed contented to passe his Purgatory here, that so he might escape Hell hereafter.

6. After multitudes of other Cruelties, tedious to us to rehearse, (and how painfull then to him to endure!) he was hanged by the Heeles betwixt two Pillars: in this posture, He put the stump of his right Arme, whose wound bled a fresh, to his mouth, so to quench (as some suppose) the extremity of his thirst, with his owne Bloud, having no other moy<sup>st</sup>ure allowed him. When one ranne a Sword thorough his Back and Belly, so that his very Entrals were seen,  
and

and seemed to call ( though in vaine ) on the Bowels of the Spectators, to have some compassion upon him. At last, with much adoe, his soul ( which had so many doores opened for it ) found a passage out of his body, into another world.

7. Here, how one of great  
\* Learning, is charitably opinion-  
ned of his finall Estate, making  
this Apostrophe to his Ghost :  
*oh, ANDRONICUS ! oh*  
*thou Emperour of the East ! how much*  
*wast thou bound unto God, whose will*  
*it was, that for a few dayes thou*  
*shouldst suffer such things, thou*  
*mightest not perish for ever ! Thou*  
*wast miserable for a short time,*  
*that thou mightest not bee misera-*  
*ble for all eternity. I make no doubt,*  
*but thou hadst the yeares of Eternity*  
*in minde, seeing that thou didst suf-*  
*fer such things so constantly, and*  
*couragiously.*

\* Drex-  
lius upon  
eternity,  
& Consi-  
deration  
p. 147.

8. But

8. But doth not so strong  
Charity Argue a weak judge-  
ment? Despaire it selfe may pre-  
sume of salvation, if such an one  
was saved. How improperly did  
he usurpe that Expression, com-  
paring himselfe to a \* *Bruised*  
*Reed*, when, another Scripture, \* *Matt.*  
resemblance was more applyable *12.v. 20.*  
unto him, of a \* *Bul-rush bowing*  
*downe his head*; onely top heavy \* *Isa. 58.*  
for the present, with sense of *v. 6.*  
suffering, not inwardly contrited  
in heart, for the sinnes he had  
committed. Must not true Re-  
pentance have a longer season to  
ripen it, and by woorkes ensuing,  
to avouch to the world the sincer-  
ity thereof? Insomuch that, of  
late, some affirme that the good  
Theefe on the Crosse did not  
then first begin, but first renew  
his repentance, lately interrup-  
ted by a felonious Act. Allow  
*Andronicus* for a Saint; and we  
shall

shall people Heaven with a new  
Plantation of Whores and  
Theeves, and how voluminous  
will the *Booke of Martyrs* be if paine  
alone does make them?

9. On the other side, we must  
be wary, how, in our Censure,  
wee shut Heaven doore against  
any Penitents. Farre be it from  
us to distrust the power of Gods  
mercy, or to deny the efficacie  
of true ( though late ) Repen-  
tance : the last groan which di-  
vorses the Soule from the body,  
may unite it to God : though  
the Arme of his body was cut  
off, the Hand of his faith might  
hold. All that I will adde is  
this, if *Andronicus* his soule  
went to Heaven, it is pi ty that  
any should know of it, lest they  
bee encouraged to imitate the  
wicked Premises of his life, ho-  
ping by his Example to obtaine  
the same happy Conclusion after  
death.

10. After

10. After his execution, the tide of the Peop'es fury did turne, who began to love his memory, and lament his Losse: Such as before were blinded with prejudice against him, could now clearely see many good deeds he had done for the Publike. And began to recount with themselves, many Sovereigne Lawes, which he had enacted: some bemoaned the misery which he had endured, as if his punishment was over-proportion'd to his deserts. Whether this pity proceeded out of that generall humour of men, never to value things till they are lost; or, because their revenge had formerly surfeted upon him, and now began to disgorge it selfe again; Or which is most probable, this Compassion arose from the mutability and inconstancy of humane Nature, which hates alwayes to be imprisoned

soned in one and the same minde ; but being in constant Motion through the *Zodack* of all Passions, will not stay long in the same *Signe*, and sometimes goes from one Extremity to another.

11. By this time *Isacius* was brought by *Basilus* the Patriarch unto the Throne, and placed thereon with all solemnity : then the Crowne was put upon his head, on the top whereof was a Diamond-Crosse, ( greatnesse and care are twins ) which *Isacius* kissed : *I welcome thee*, said he, though not as a stranger, who have been acquainted with Crosses from my Cradle : Thou art both my Sword and my Shield, for hitherto I have conquered with suffering. Then weighing the Crowne in his hand ; it is (sayth he) a beautiful barthen, which loads, more than it adorne.



12. Here *Basilius* the Patri-  
arke made a Sermon-like Orati-  
on unto him, which, as it was  
uttered with much gravity, so  
it was heard with no lesse Atten-  
tion, and embraced by the Em-  
perour with great thankfulness.  
*Not presuming, Sir, to teach you  
what you doe not know, I am in-  
cited by my Calling, and encon-  
raged by your Clemency, to put you  
in minde, of what otherwise you  
may forget. This Crowne and  
Scepter were sent you from Hea-  
ven, onely wee have done our duty  
in delivering them unto you. And  
now mee t'inks, that Divine Ma-  
jesty perfectly shines in You his I-  
mage. These our eyes upheld, and  
folded hands, and bared heads, and  
bended knees are due from us to  
God, and wee pay them to him,  
by paying them to you his Recei-  
ver. And wee doubt not, but you  
will improve the Power and Ho-*

*nonr*

Andronicus, or

nour bestowed on you, for the protection of the people committed unto you.

13. In a mans bod whilst naturall Heat and radicall Moisture observe their limits; all is preserved in health: if either exceeds their bounds, the body either drownes, or burnes. It fareth thus in the Constitution of the State; betwixt your Power, and our Prosperity; whilst both agree, they support one another: but, if they fall out, about Mastery, even that which over-comes, will bee destroyed in a generall confusion. And if you should betray your Trust, though we bow, and beare, and sigh, and sob, armed with Prayers and Teares; yet know, that our sad Mourning will mount into that Court, where lye the Appeals of Subjects, and the Censures of Soveraignes; which will heavily bee inflicted by him, whom  
you

*you represent. Speake I not this, out of any distrust of your Justice, but out of earnest desire of your happiness, wishing, that the greatnesse of Constantine, founder of this place, the goodnesse of Jovian, the successe of Honorius, the long life of Valens, the quiet death of Manuel, the immortal fame of Justinian, and whatsoever good was sing'd on them, may joyntly be heap'd upon you, and your Posterity.*

14. Hereupon followed such a shout of the people, as the oldest man present had not heard the like; and all interpreted it as a token presaging the future felicity of the new Emperour. And thus we have presented the Reader, with the remarkable intricacie and perplexity of successe (as if Fortune were like to loose her selfe in a Labyrinth of her owne making,) winding backward and forward, within

L

the

The compasse of five yeares, with more strange varieties then can easily be parall'd in so short a continuance of time.

1. First, *Alexius*; no *Andronicus*.

2. Then, *Alexius*; and *Andronicus*.

3. Then, *Andronicus*; and *Alexius*.

4. Then, *Andronicus*; no *Alexius*.

5. Then, *Isaacus*; no *Andronicus*.

Thus, few strings curiously playd upon by the cunning fingers of a skilfull Artist may make much Musick: and Divine Providence made here a miraculous harmony by these odd expected

pected transpositions, tuning all  
to his own glory.

15. Here I intended to end  
our History, save that I cannot  
discharge my Trust, and bee  
faithfull to the Truth, without  
taking some speciall observati-  
on of *Basilus*. Wee cannot for-  
get how active an Instrument  
hee had been to serve the cru-  
elty of *Andronicus*: and when  
first I looked wishly upon his  
hand (so busied in wicked em-  
ployments) I presently read  
his Fortune, that hee should  
come to a violent death. The  
old \* Hermite seemed to mee a  
Prophet, to confirme mee in my  
opinion, (when reprovng him  
for stickling in temporall mat-  
ters) and my conjectures grew  
confident, that this Patriarke  
in proccesse of time, would ei-  
ther shake off Mire from his

L 2

head,

head, or his head from his shoulders. And, perchance, if the ingenuous Reader would be pleased freely to confess his thoughts therein, he was posselt with the same expectation.

16. How wide were we from the marke? How blind is man in future Contingents? How wise is God in crossing our Conceits, leaving the World amused with his wayes, that men finding themselves at a losse, may learn more to adore, what they cannot understand. See *Basilus*, as brave, and as bright as ever, and whilst all his Fellow-servants had their Wages paid them by *Andronicus*, (some made longer in their Neckes, others shorter by their Heads) He alone survives in Health and Honour: which made most to admire, what peculiar Antidote  
of

of Sovereigne vertue hee had gotten to preserve himselfe from the infectious fury of that Tyrant.

17. But that which advanceth this wonder into the markes of a miracle, is, that this cunning Pilot should so quickly *task about*, when the winde changed, and ingratiate Himselfe with *Isaacius*. When times suddenly turned from Extreames; those persons which formerly were first in favour, are cast farthest behinde, and they must bee very active and industrious to recover themselves. But *Basilus* by a strange Dexterity, was instantly in the front of Favourites, and, without any abatement, carried it in as high a strain as ever before; and, although (being weary already) I am loath to

travell further into the Reigne of this new Emperour, to see in the sequell thereof what became of *Basilus* at last; yet, so farre as I can from the best chosen Advantage, discern and discover his successe; no signall punishment above the ordinary Standard of Casualities, did befall him; and, for ought appears to the contrary, hee dyed in his bed.

18. Of such as seriously consider this Accident, some perchance may bee so well stockt with charity, as to conceive, that hee repented of his former impiety; and, thereupon was pardoned by Heaven, and came to a peaceable end. Others may conceive, that as, when a whole Forrest of Trees is felled, some aged, eminent Oake, by the High-way side, may



may bee suffered to survive, as uselesse for Timber, because decayed; yet, usefull for a Landmarke, for the direction of Travellers; so *Basilus* being now aged, and past dangerous Activity, was preserved for the Information of Posterity, and (when all others were cut downe by cruell deaths,) he left alone to instruct the ensuing age of the Tragicall passage which had happened in his Remembrance. But the most solid, and judicious will expresse themselves in the language of the \* Apostle, *Some mens sinnes are open before-hand, going before to judgement, and some mens follow after.* All notorious offenders are not publicly branded in the World with an infamous Character of shame or paine: but some carry their sinnes concealed and re-

\* Tim. 5  
24.

ceive the reward for them in another world.

19. It onely remaineth, that we now give the personall description of *Andronicus*, so farre forth as it may be collected from the few extant Authors which have written thereof.

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His

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I.

*His Statyre.*

**H**EE was higher then the ordinary sort of Men. He was seven full feet in length ( if there be no mistake in the difference of the measure. ) And whereas, often the Cock-loft is empty, in those which nature hath built many stories high ; his head was sufficiently stored with all Abilities.

II.

*His Temper.*

**O**F a most healthfull Constitution; of a lively Colour, and vigorous Limbes, so that

*Andronicus, or*

that he was used to say, that he could endure the violence of any Disease for a Twelve-month together by his sole naturall strength, without being beholding to Art, or any assistance of Physick.

III.

*His Learning.*

**H**EE had a quicke Apprehension, and solid judgement, and was able on any emergent, occasion, to speake rationally on any Controversie in Divinity. He would not abide to heare any Fundamentall Point of Religion brought in to question; insomuch, that when once two Bishops began to contend about the meaning of that noted place, *My Father is greater then I am*, *Andronicus* suspected that they would fall

*The Unfortunate Polititian.*

fall foule upon the *Arrian* Heresie, vowed to throw them both into the River, except they would bee quiet. Away to quench the honest Disputation, by an in-Artificiall Answer, drawne from such Authority.

IV.

*His Wives.*

FIRST, *Theodora Comnenia*, Daughter of *Isiacius Sebastocrator*, his nearest kinswoman; so that the Marriage was most incestuous.

The second, *Anna*, Daughter to the King of *France*; of whom largely before.

V. *His*

*Andronicus, or*

V.

*His lawfull Issue, both by  
his first Wife.*

**I**OHAN COMNENIUS  
his eldest Sonne. It seemes  
he was much deformed, and his  
Soule, as cruell as his Body ugly.  
Hee assisted *Hagio Christophori-  
ta-Stephanus* in the stifling of  
of *Xene*.

*Manuel*, his second Sonne, of  
a most vertuous disposition. Let  
those that undertake the ensuing  
History, shew how both had their  
eyes bored out by *Isaciuss*.

VI.

*His Naturall Issue.*

**I** Meet with none of their  
Names, and though he lived  
wantonly with many Harlots,  
and

*The Vnfortunate Polititian.*

and Concubines: yet (what a Father observeth) πολυγαμία ποιεῖ ἀτεκνίαν, *Many wives make few children.* And it may be imputed to the providence of Nature, that Monsters (such as *Andronicus*) in this particular) are happy that they are barren.

VII.

*His Buriall.*

**B**Y publick Edi& it was prohibited that any should bury his body: however some were found, who bestowed, though not a solemne *Grave*, yet an obscure *Hole* upon him, not out of pitty to him, but out of love to themselves; except any will say, that his *Coprs*, by extraordinary stinch, provided its own buriall, to avoid a generall annoyance.

*FINIS.*

Elizabeth  
Halliday Her  
Book Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>  
1766





